Manual Camera Settings Cheat Sheet

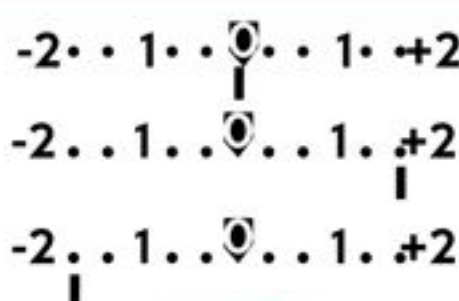The Official London Photography Tours

EXPOSURE

+1 · · 1 · · 0 · · 1 · · 1 —

+1 · · 1 · · 0 · · 1 · · 1 —

+1 · · 1 · · 0 · · 1 · · 1 —
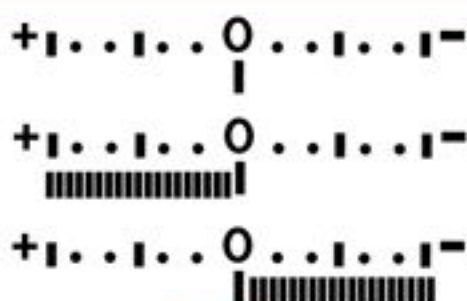
For Nikon

TRY TO KEEP YOUR LIGHT METER AT "0"

OVEREXPOSED

UNDEREXPOSED

-2 · · 1 · · 0 · · 1 · +2

-2 · · 1 · · 0 · · 1 · +2

-2 · · 1 · · 0 · · 1 · +2

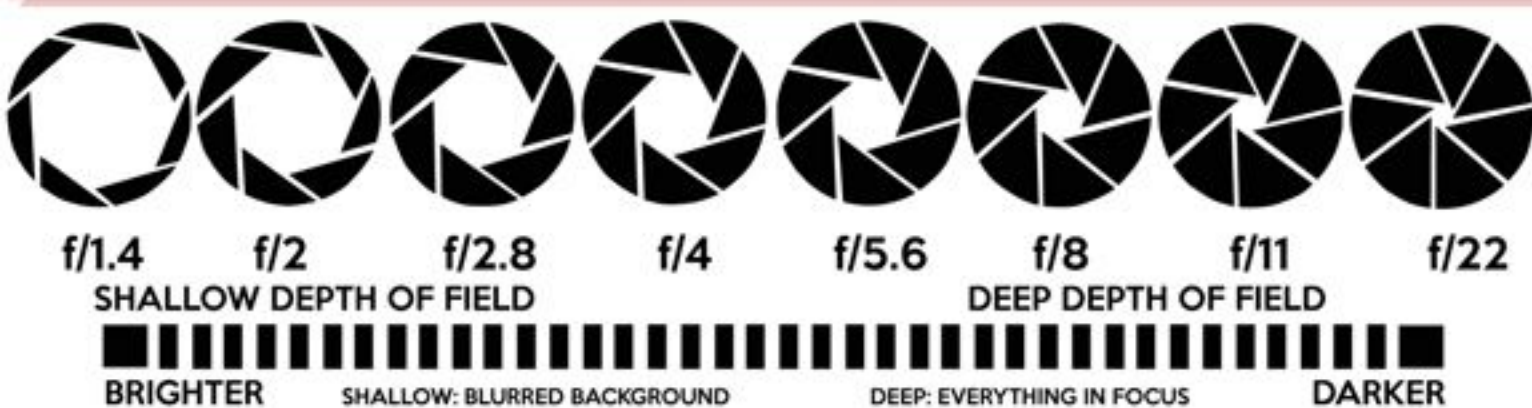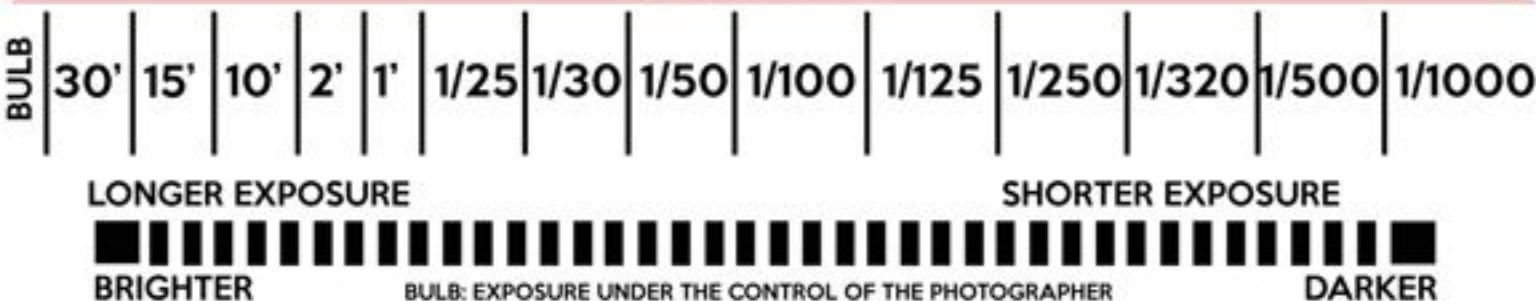**For Canon**

Using your cameras inbuilt light meter enables you to get the correct exposure. If you keep the dial in the middle, the photo will be correctly exposed. If not, you will need to adjust one of the settings below.

APERTURE

f/1.4 f/2 f/2.8 f/4 f/5.6 f/8 f/11 f/22

SHALLOW DEPTH OF FIELD   **DEEP DEPTH OF FIELD**

BRIGHTER   SHALLOW: BLURRED BACKGROUND   DEEP: EVERYTHING IN FOCUS   **DARKER**
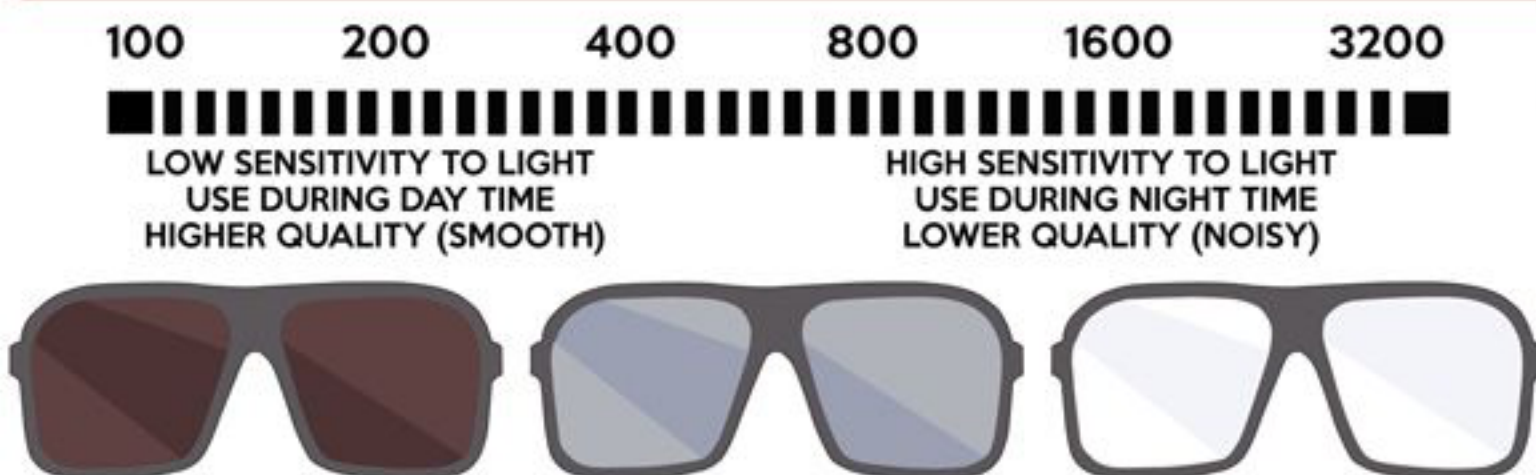
The pupil in your eye operates in a very similar way to the aperture in your camera. The lower the light levels, the larger your pupil becomes to allow more light to enter your eye. In such conditions you need a larger hole in your lens (F/1.4) to let more light into the camera. In bright light your pupils are smaller so less light can enter the eye. In these conditions you need a smaller hole in your lens (F/22).

SHUTTER

BULB | **30' 15' 10' 2' 1' 1/25 1/30 1/50 1/100 1/125 1/250 1/320 1/500 1/1000**

LONGER EXPOSURE   **SHORTER EXPOSURE**

BRIGHTER   BULB: EXPOSURE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PHOTOGRAPHER   **DARKER**

The speed at which you blink your eyes has a similar effect to the shutter speed in your camera. If you open your eyes for a short amount of time, only a small amount of light will enter. A high shutter speed has the same effect. If you keep your eyes open for a longer amount of time more light will enter. A slow shutter speed has the same effect.

ISO

100   200   400   800   1600   3200

**LOW SENSITIVITY TO LIGHT
USE DURING DAY TIME
HIGHER QUALITY (SMOOTH)**

**HIGH SENSITIVITY TO LIGHT
USE DURING NIGHT TIME
LOWER QUALITY (NOISY)**

The sensor in your camera is like a pair of sunglasses. The darker the sunglasses the less sensitive your eyes are to the light, which is the same as having the camera set to ISO 100. If you put on clear spectacles your eyes are more sensitive to light, which is the same as having your camera set to ISO 1600+.

Here is a cheat sheet to help you have a better understanding of how to use your camera. Please use this as a guide only.