

Portraiture Cheat Sheet

Camera

- Camera – capable of Manual settings
- Lens with a focal length of between 80 and 125mm
- A tripod if you have one
- The ability to set items below (Read your camera's manual!)

Settings

- ISO: 100 – 200
- Aperture: Start at f8 and adjust up or down as necessary for the different light levels
- Shutter Speed: 125th of a second
- Exposure compensation: capability to offset exposure – lighter or darker (initially set to '0', minus figures make the scene darker, plus figures, brighter.)



Lighting

- Be prepared to move the lights to get the lighting effect you want – closer or nearer, side to side, be prepared to adjust the light output to raise and lower the light levels
- Raise or lower the lights to give different effects
- DON'T use other people's settings unless you want to achieve the same effect as them
- Flash – you'll need the trigger to get the main set to work
- Try a larger aperture – f4 will give you a sort depth of field. Adjust your shutter speed to 1/250th of a second to compensate

General

- Talk to your models – let them know what you would like them to do!
- In the "continuous lighting" (non-flash) setups, try your camera on "Auto" and see what results it gives you.
- Experiment with Exposure Compensation (make the image lighter or darker.) Make sure you return it to '0' when you've finished