

Name _____

Picture-Perfect Focus: How to Capture Sharp and Well-Focused Photos

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. To capture sharp action shots at a fast-moving sports event, I would use a combination of techniques. First, I'd select the Continuous Autofocus (AF-C) mode to continuously track and adjust focus on the moving athletes. I'd also choose a fast shutter speed to freeze the action, depending on the sport. Using a monopod or stabilizing my camera against a railing would help minimize camera shake. Additionally, I might use focus lock by tracking a player and locking focus on them before they reach a critical moment in the game. This way, I can ensure sharp focus on the subject while maintaining creative control over the composition.
2. In a low-light situation, such as capturing a night scene, I would use a tripod to eliminate camera shake. If my lens or camera has image stabilization (IS or VR), I would turn it on to further reduce any potential vibrations. To achieve sharp focus, I might switch to manual focus and use live view mode with focus magnification to fine-tune the focus on a specific point, like a distant building or a star. By stabilizing the camera and precisely adjusting focus, I can capture sharp and well-exposed nighttime images.
3. Let's say I'm photographing a static object in a dimly lit room where autofocus struggles. In this scenario, I would switch to manual focus. I'd use the camera's live view mode and focus magnification to zoom in on the object and carefully adjust the focus ring until the subject appears sharp in the frame. Manual focus allows for precise control and ensures that the subject is sharp even in challenging lighting conditions.
4. To use focus lock effectively in a portrait session, I would follow these steps:
 - a) Position the subject in the frame, ensuring that their eyes are in the desired focus point.
 - b) Half-press the shutter button to activate autofocus and focus on the subject's eyes.
 - c) While maintaining the half-press on the shutter button, recompose the shot to achieve the desired framing or composition.
 - d) Once the composition is set, fully press the shutter button to take the photo. This technique ensures that the subject's eyes, often the most critical part of a portrait, remain sharply focused while allowing for creative framing or positioning within the frame.

