

Task 2 Help Sheet

This task is all about white balance.

Different light sources are different temperatures which can put a colour cast on your images. The white balance feature is designed to counteract this. This task is designed to allow you to experience for yourself the colour cast different lighting can put on your image, and show you how you can reduce this problem by changing your white balance setting.

PART 1: SETTING A CUSTOM WHITE BALANCE

We touched on this in Module 3 when we were calculating the dynamic range of our cameras, but I will go through how to do it again to refresh your memory.

Part 1: Set your custom white balance to the desired setting.

- Select the card you want to use. It could be an 18% grey card, or a white card or something in between. If shooting a portrait, ask your model to hold it. If shooting a scene, lean the card against something in the vicinity of your subject. Make sure the angle of the card is not causing light to reflect back off the card. Set your camera lens to Manual Focus. Position yourself so that the card totally fills the viewfinder. Photograph the card. Find “Custom White Balance” on your camera menu.
- Press the SET button, and the SET screen will appear.
- Select the image that was captured in Step 1 above, then press SET. The data will be imported and your message screen and menu will re-appear.

Part 2: Set your white balance to “custom white balance”

- Press your button for white balance options.
- Select the symbol for custom white balance.

Note: Instructions may vary depending on your camera brand and model. Consult your camera book for instructions to SET CUSTOM WHITE BALANCE if different to above.

PART 2: SETTING A CUSTOM WHITE BALANCE

Take a white plate and cover it with sugar. If you don't have any sugar, use white flour or icing sugar. Write a word or draw something in the sugar to create some contours. Zoom in so that the sugar totally fills your viewfinder. You should not be able to see the plate. If you cannot get that close, use a larger plate.

When you look through your viewfinder, you should see something like this:



No plate – just the flour or sugar you are using.

Your challenge is to get the colour as true to real as possible. Think about the light. Shoot the scene using every available white balance setting on your camera. You will end up with somewhere between 8 and 14 images (depending on how many white balance settings are on your camera).

Download the images to your computer and have a look at them. Select the shot with the most accurate colour.

Resample and upload the image.

Answer these questions in your “image story”:

- 1. What did you notice about the histogram for this image?**
- 2. Under what type of lighting were you taking your images?**
- 3. What white balance setting give the most accurate colour reproduction?**