

# GCSE Photography

## Unit One—The Blue Hour.

The blue hour is a period of time that photographers have found that there are particularly desirable properties for photography. The light found during these times of day can produce some of the most stunning photography possible. While filters can sometimes approximate this lighting effect, it is nearly impossible to capture the true quality of light from the Blue Hour at any other time in any other way.

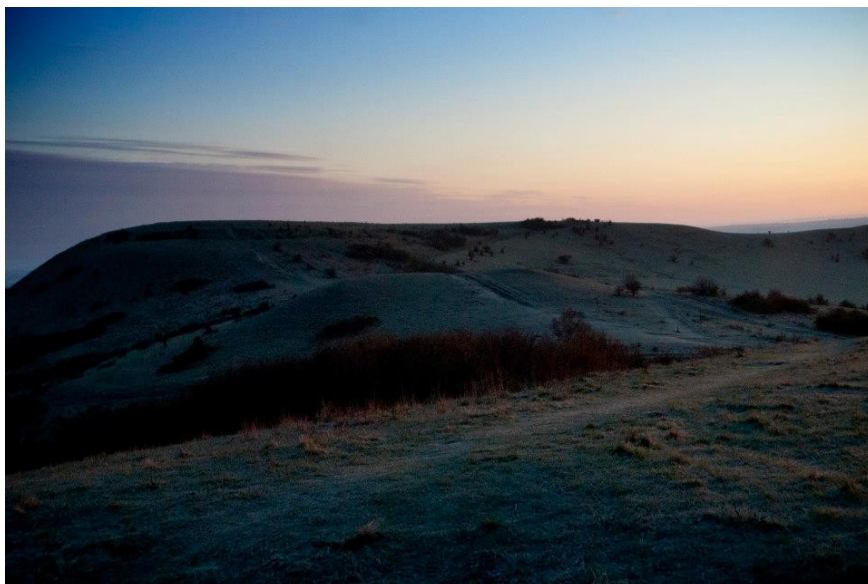


### **What is the Blue Hour**

The blue hour is the time of day when the light takes on a strong blue tone. The sky becomes a deep and rich blue that appears to have almost a smooth, creamy texture. The earth is covered in the bluish tinted light that gives a feeling of night-time without hiding details like often is the result of true night photos. The blue hour is an excellent time for taking photos of night-time objects that are very bright like the moon.

### **When is the Blue Hour?**

The blue hour is a most misleading term as it doesn't last anything like a full hour. In reality, what photographers call the blue hour really only lasts about 20 minutes. The blue hour generally lasts the 20 to 30 minutes just after sunset and just before sunrise.



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## Unit One—The Golden Hour.

The golden hour, sometimes called the "magic hour", is roughly the first hour of light after sunrise, and the last hour of light before sunset, although the exact duration varies between seasons. During these times the sun is low in the sky, producing a soft, diffused light which is much more flattering than the harsh midday sun that so many of us are used to shooting in.

Tips for the Blue and Golden Hours. Once you've chosen a subject and when you're going to do it, you're nearly ready to get your camera gear together and head out to snap some great pictures. But before you do, bear the following tips in mind, to ensure things go smoothly and you make the most of your time:



**Use a tripod** - At the times nearest sunrise and sunset your scene will be very dark. However, it would be a shame to miss out on the fantastic colours and textures by waiting for it to get lighter. Set your camera up on a sturdy tripod, use a low ISO and a long exposure.

**Allow plenty of setup time** - When the golden hour starts, it starts surprisingly suddenly, so it's essential that you're prepared. Get to your shooting location with plenty of time to spare, even if that means getting up in the middle of the night.

**Keep shooting** - During each golden hour, the light changes remarkably quickly, and your scene can look vastly different after just a few minutes. Rather than snapping one or two shots and then heading home, stay for the entire hour and capture the full range of effects.

**Take a torch and a hot drink** - Dawn and dusk can get very cold and dark. This sounds obvious but it's easy to forget, especially if you're heading out in daylight to photograph sunset. A torch will help you see what you're doing and where you're walking, and a warm drink is a godsend while you're standing around in the cold waiting for your next shot.