

HD – Cameras

- Progressive or Interlace? How you want motion to be portrayed will determine the best capture format - sports/fast motion- use interlace, film look -use progressive.
- If you want 'film motion' select 25P as your frame rate. (Check your deliverable first!).
- The Contrast handling of HD cameras can be extended by at least two stops by selective modification to the menu options in the camera. Suggested settings are available from the BBC.
- Shutter Speeds: Electronic cameras have electronic shutters. These are default at 1/25th. A shutter is used to shorten the time the camera has to capture the frame without changing the frame rate.
- Camera test: it's well worth shooting tests for camera, make-up, wardrobe, and set design, before committing to particular settings.
- If you're shooting in HD you will need an HD lens as most SD lenses are not capable of resolving the image to the high level necessary for a HD camera.
- Focus is very precise in HD and Back Focus is very critical. Check the Back Focus on a regular basis and especially if the camera has been transported any distance as the lens mounts tend to fret and loosen.
- Exposure: Control your 'high lights' as overexposure is just as disastrous in HD as SD. Don't be afraid to under-expose, it will work.
- Filters can be used as with all other camera systems.
- Be aware that additional detail correction, as usually applied to an SD shoot, may not be appropriate in HD, since the HD acquisition can cope with the resolution of the scene in a natural way without the need for additional "sharpening". This may not be apparent if viewing on set on a small monitor, but over-sharpened pictures will not look good on a large HD-capable screen, or once coded for transmission. If the programme is subsequently down-converted to SD, detail correction may be applied at that stage, for the SD version only.