

EARLY PHOTOGRAPHY

Read the text and choose the word that best fits the gap.

In the early days of photography, a stand (0) or some other firm support for the camera was essential. This was because photographic materials were (1) insensitive to light that a typical exposure lasted several seconds. The camera (2) had to be held still for this time in order to obtain a sharp picture. The subjects also had to be still if their images (3) were able to register properly on the film. Some early street scenes include blurred, transparent, ghostlike images of people (4) were wandered past while the scene was in process of (5) being photographed.

Studio portraits from the late 1800s show people posed rigidly, often leaning against furniture, (6) which helped them to remain motionless. (7) As it was important to keep the head still, a support was often provided (8) around the neck. Bright studio lights, sometimes produced by (9) burning fire to a strip of magnesium or a small pile of magnesium powder, helped (10) shorten reducing the required exposure time. These burned with an intensely blue flame that gave the necessary amount of light, (11) but the smoke was unpleasant and (12) there was also a risk of fire.

The problems associated (13) with long exposure were overcome by the introduction of faster, more sensitive photographic plates, and later, roll films. The development of smaller cameras led (14) to photography becoming a popular hobby. Nowadays, digital cameras have further revolutionized photography, enabling even the (15) most inexperienced of photographers to produce professional-looking pictures.

