Why use manual settings?
Use manual features when more control over the image is required.

Common situations when manual mode is particularly helpful.
  - High contrast environments, like a sunny day.
  - Low light situations. The camera often has trouble focusing.
  - Controlled camera movements.

Common situations when automatic settings are particularly helpful.
  - Handheld run and gun filming.
  - Working with an unfamiliar camera.
  - Evenly lit environments.

Exposure = (Aperture + Shutter speed) + Gain

Aperture is the size of the opening through which light enters a lens.

The smaller the f number the brighter the image, and the bigger the aperture. Opening up 1 stop doubles the amount of light, while closing 1 stop cuts the amount of light in half.

Shutter Speed is the length of time light is captured by the sensor, measured in fractions of a second.

Slow shutters work well in low light situations.
Fast shutters work well to capture fast motion.

Gain increases the brightness of the image, but also adds ugly noise. Only use gain in a low light situations.

Manual Focus
Zoom in, focus on the eye of the subject, zoom out to frame.

Use manual focus in more controlled situations or when the camera’s auto focus is misbehaving.

Depth of Field (DOF) is the
To achieve shallow depth of field zoom in and open up (lower f number). To achieve deep focus zoom out and close down (higher f number).

Image Stabilization helps reduce camera shake.
Use unless working with a tripod.

Manual Audio gives control over audio levels.
Set levels while using external microphones and controlled situations, like interviews. Always monitor audio.