Photoshop CS5.1 Workflow Cheat Sheet

1. Photo Restoration Workflow

- Scan or Open Image - Use high-resolution scans (300-600 DPI recommended)

- Crop (C) and straighten as needed using Ruler Tool (I > Shift-click for Ruler)

- Use Spot Healing Brush (J) and Patch Tool to remove small blemishes

- Clone Stamp Tool (S) for larger texture recovery (Alt+Click to sample)

- Use Filter > Noise > Dust & Scratches to remove small grain defects

- Convert to Black & White (Ctrl+Alt+Shift+B) for tonal restoration

- Use Dodge & Burn tools or 50% gray layer set to Overlay for tone balance

- Finish with Smart Sharpen or Unsharp Mask (Filter > Sharpen)

2. Poster Design Workflow

- New Document - Use Print Preset (e.g., A3 or 11x17 inches, 300 DPI)

- Use Rulers (Ctrl+R) and Guides for layout alignment

- Add Background - Use Gradient Tool (G) or high-res texture image

- Add Text (T) - Use bold fonts and Character/Paragraph panels to fine-tune

- Use Shape Tool (U) to create graphic accents (bars, frames, icons)

- Layer Styles (Double-click layer) - Add Stroke, Drop Shadow, or Outer Glow

- Use Smart Objects for imported logos or vector assets

- Final check: View > Proof Colors (Ctrl+Y) for CMYK preview

3. Social Media Graphics Workflow

- New Document - Use presets: 1080x1080 for Instagram, 1920x1080 for Stories

- Use Guides (Ctrl+') for safe zones and visual balance

- Drag in stock images or assets as Smart Objects for resizing flexibility

- Use Adjustment Layers for fast color grading (Levels, Hue/Saturation)

- Add Text and align using the Move Tool + Align options in top bar

- Use Export > Save for Web (Ctrl+Shift+Alt+S) to control file size and format

- Export in PNG for transparency or JPEG for smaller size