







































GRADE	SET>SEASONS	COMMENTS	IMAGE
A	A FROSTY MORN	This is a nice vibrant image of a frozen flower. I like the fact that you have shown most of the bloom in sharp focus, which brings out the ice crystal structure, yet has allowed the rest of the plant to run off into softer focus. I feel this works quite well although I might have preferred for one or two of the leaf spikes around the flower to have been shown in sharper focus. There is lovely colour and tones in this image with the composition reasonably well handled, if perhaps just a little central. Highly Commended	
A	AN AUTUMN ENTRANCE	Some good rich colour here from the flat lighting condition which has enabled you to bring out the some good detail in the foliage, etc. but the image does lack that little bit of extra vibrancy that a more directional lighting condition would bring. I have the feeling that some selective lighting adjustment could have been made to some areas of this image just to lift the overall impact and question whether the inclusion of the sky is adding to the image. Perhaps a step or two back to alter the perspective and remove the sky, yet still include the archway, might have been more profitable? Merit	
A	AUTUMN COLOURS JAPANESE GARDEN	Some lovely rich autumn tones in this image with the panoramic treatment suiting the composition. Unfortunately, much of the image is not as sharp as it could be which is detracting somewhat from the tranquil and reflective beauty of this place. Whilst the composition is rather central the balance is offset by the differing sizes of the tree clumps either side of the lone central tree giving quite an interesting compositional balance to the image. Perhaps, a little work on the bright area in the water central bottom would be helpful. Merit .	
A	AUTUMN IN DUNDAS	The colours in this one seem a little artificial to my eyes. Also, some areas of the image, for example the pathway, seem rather overexposed, with the overall image, lacking in sharpness. A pity because there is obviously an interesting image here, but it does need the application of a better technique to bring out the detail and beauty of this scene. Potentially, the composition is good with the curve of the pathway adding interest, but perhaps the inclusion of a person, or another element thereon, would add more interest. Acceptance	
A	AUTUMN SUNRISE AT PUKEHOU	Interesting tonal quality in this one. The image itself is interesting but I am not sure that the red colour caste through the whole image is successful – particularly in the lower areas of the image. I like that tone in the sky but it seems overdone in the lower half, particularly in the pathway. Compositionally, I like the lead in of that path but feel the church is a little central and not sure you need all of the sky, or all the pathway for that matter. Some cropping perhaps. On balance I would opt for less of the pathway, thus placing the church off the centre line. But it is nice and sharp throughout and with a little lift in the exposure in some of the darker areas it could be a more viable image. Merit	
A	AUTUMN MORNING IN THE JAPANESE GARDEN	I like the fact that you have produced this image as a panorama but would suggest it could be much stronger if it were cropped further, both top and bottom, to eliminate the blank areas there and to bring the eye into the beauty of the autumn tones, and the sun beams. I have the feeling that these latter areas are a whisker over exposed and if the exposure there was reduced a little the autumn tones, and the sunbeams, would be much more dramatic. Overall, I suggest a tightening of the composition overall would give added strength to what is potentially a good image as most aspects technically have been well handled. Merit	
A	COLD AND DESERTED	Yes, cold and deserted, helped, I would suggest, by the monochromatic treatment. However, there is a serious post production issue here with much of the centre of the image suffering from chromatic aberrations, which could have been alleviated by some selective zonal correction. Not sure why you have used such a high ISO – perhaps a lower ISO and a longer shutter speed and a more sympathetic aperture would have given you a better result? Compositionally, I would have been tempted to make more of the foreground (seats?) to give the image a greater sense of depth. But, overall, such a pity that the image is let down by technical issues. Acceptance	
A	COOL SUNRISE	Yes, a cool sunrise with the fog adding a nice mood. Technically, it has been well handled, with the brightness of the sun masked to some degree behind the background tree and the fog nicely rendered. The problem for me is the composition which is rather literal and lacking strong elements and balance, in my opinion. It certainly has feel for the meteorological event, but needs stronger elements within it to make it work. Merit	
A	DELICATELY ANNOUNCING SPRING	Some wonderfully delicate tonality in this image with the soft contre jour lighting giving the image a beautifully ethereal feel. From a technical point of view the comparatively wide aperture used has added to this feel with the outer fringes of the blooms drifting into soft focus, all complemented by the soft pastel coloured background. The light coloured and subtle vignetting around the periphery of the image adds nicely to the overall feel of delicacy. I might have preferred to have not seen the top bloom cutoff but other than that small caveat, this is a beautifully taken image. Honours	










CAMBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB - SEASONS - JUN 2018









A	FALL	A pretty straight forward image of this autumn street, but very literal. I feel that there is a much stronger image here than that which you have shown us had you pointed the camera in a more dynamic position – for instance moving in closer to the tree and pointing it upwards placing it compositionally against the adjacent architecture. As it stands cropping out most of the sky and the vehicles on the roadside would have made this image tighter compositionally and concentrated the eye on the footpath, the tree and the buildings. The exposure and sharpness are both good. Merit	
A	FOG LIFT	I like the panoramic treatment of this image but feel that you have included a little too much in the composition – particularly at the top where there is little detail in the fog and the overall brightness is leading the eye away from the lake and bush in the centre. Watch too, the apparent horizon line and the exposure on the bush and lake line, which lacks vibrancy and where some selective exposure and tonal adjustments would give this part of the image a welcome lift. Potentially a lovely image but in need of some more sympathetic editing and selective post production treatment. Merit	
A	KINGS CANYON THE MEEADOW IN AUTUN	Very vibrant colours here – perhaps, just a little over the top. You have included a lot of landscape in the image by the use of such a wide angle lens and perhaps the lens aberrations around the edges of the image could well have been straightened. The middle of the day lighting has given you bold colours but has resulted in less dramatic lighting. Not sure, either, why you have used such a high ISO with so much light around and when using such a wide angle lens. Surely, a lower ISO would have given you a better quality of image? However, the compositional elements are fine – pity the lighting was not more sympathetic. Highly Commended	
A	LEFT HANGING	I love the way the almost contre jour lighting illuminates the sole leaf and how this is echoed in the out of focus leaves in the background. This wonderful use of lighting and really makes this image sparkle. Compositionally, it is fine with good placement of the main leaf in a strong position against the lighter ground area. The diagonal shadow area there helps the composition too. A couple of things, though. The image appears a little under saturated on my monitor, particularly in the green ground areas and perhaps you could consider toning down the light areas on the branches leading into the image on the right – maybe a slight crop there, too? But, overall, lovely use of lighting giving us a striking image. Honours	
A	ONE NAKED IN NATURE	I really liked the fact that you pointed the camera skywards here to give us this dramatic image. Good use of converging lines to lead the eye into the centre of interest at the top of the main tree. One could argue that the main tree trunk is a little central and that placing it on a more dynamic angle, and the top branches a little offset from the centre of the image, may well have been helpful, but overall I feel it works quite well as it is. My one caveat is that I feel it is just lacking in vibrancy which a little less exposure and some tonal saturation would have rectified. Highly Commended	
A	ONGAONGA LIGHT SHOW	Some beautifully dramatic lighting here, which aspect you have captured well with your exposure. I do wonder, though, whether you have shown us too much of this scene with the dramatic lighting all but overwhelming what is happening on the landscape in the bottom third of the image. There, the slanting lighting is selectively lighting the part of the land where the cattle are grazing and I cannot but feel that the strongest, and most interesting composition, lies in that area. Nice and all as the sunbeams in the top two thirds are, crop them out and concentrate on what is happening in the bottom third and you have the very essence of a fine landscape image utilising the exquisite late afternoon light. Highly Commended	
A	SEASON OF REFLECTING	A pleasant image (start or end of day?). I like the fact that you have included the person in a strong position compositionally, to give the image a focal point and meaning, and enjoyed the tones and patterns on the beach. I may well have been tempted just to saturate the tones a little more, particularly in the upper part of the sky which could be darkened down a little as well, to hold the eye into the image. A pleasant and relaxing image. Highly Commended	
A	SEASONAL SPLENDOUR	Yes, perhaps, but I am not at all sure you have made the best of this scene. Unfortunately, the flat, middle of the day lighting, has done you no favours, nor has the straight on, and from a distance, composition. Also, the image lacks critical sharpness which leads one to question why use F18, and its inherently softer rendition, in such lighting where a wider aperture would have been inherently sharper and would have given you a faster shutter speed, both of which would arguably help you to get a sharper image. But really, this type of image needs more dramatic lighting, and a compositional thinking for it to work well. Acceptance	
A	SUMMER IN CARLISLE	A well handled, sharp and beautifully exposed image in a less than ideal lighting situation. I like the way you have used the flower garden as the compositional lead in line as well as the strong position that the main tower block has been placed. Your exposure has been well handled to bring out detail in both the buildings and in the foreground, yet still managing to hold the tones in the sky. Not necessarily a dynamic image but a very well handled representational image of this place. Honours	
A	TIS SEASON OF FOG	This is a well composed and well handled image. I like the fact that you have used the arched shape of the bridge as the main compositional element and included the trees on the left as the counterpoint. The wedge form of the bridge works well to lead the eye into the softer forms of the trees and fog in the background with just enough detail there to hold interest. It has been a well thought out composition which has been equally well handled technically, giving us a great impression of a city bridge on a late autumn day. Well done. Honours	

A	WINTER FOG	Another pretty well handled fog image with some reasonable compositional elements but lacking a little, perhaps, in some balancing counterpoint to offset the shape of the bridge. I do like the inclusion of the ducks in the foreground but feel they are not quite prominent enough in the image to give that ultimate compositional balance. I note again, that you have used ISO 800 again here – probably not necessary with that camera I would have thought to obtain the best quality of image. But a pleasant, if not dynamic, image none the less. Highly Commended	
A	WINTER JEWELS	Nice title. An interesting image taken from a good perspective with some intriguing and varying detail captured in each of the water droplets. I like the fact that you have taken this image from a lower viewpoint and placing the droplets and the leaves against the sky. Perhaps, just a little too much sky? Perhaps a slight crop off the bottom? But. Lovely detail in both the water droplets and the leaves with pretty good compositional arrangement of the elements in the frame. Highly Commended	
A	WINTER MORNING	Yes, a lovely scene in early morning but I feel the image just lacks that little bit of vibrancy as supplied. In this respect, I feel that the middle band of the image through the landform at lake's edge needs a little more exposure and saturation whilst the bottom part of the reflection in the lake needs a small exposure adjustment to give it a lift and more vibrancy and to bring that latter area into better tonal and exposure balance with the top of the image. This is inherently a well balanced and lovely image which just needs some selective tonal and lighting adjustments to bring out its full potential. Highly Commended.	
A	WINTER ROMANCE	This is a beautifully thought out and executed image. Compositionally, it has excellent balance with the lines of the two light standards and the background row of trees leading us through to the embracing couple, all of which is set off in a wonderfully romantic winter scene. Everything about this image, technically, compositionally and especially, emotionally, works so well that I have no hesitation in awarding: Honours	
A	WINTER WONDERLAND	I can feel the cold permeating my bones! Yes, a wonderland, but tones captured here certainly are suggestive of a freezing cold place. Compositionally, I like the placement of the river off centre as it winds its way through the trees and the vast plains sky with its cool sunset tones with its echo in the little bit of land form poking through the trees on the right just adds to the feel of frigidity and overall balance to the image. Honours.	
B	AUTUNNO	Some nice compositional elements in this image with the statue on the right offset by the slightly angled line of the archway and wall. Nice colour in these areas too, but I find the bland sky a little disturbing as my eye is lead there with it being the brightest part of the image. Perhaps, standing back a little to get a better perspective with less, or no, sky, might have been helpful? Overall, the image lacks critical sharpness and again, here, I wonder why you have chosen such a high ISO number when a lower value together with a little lower F stop, would, arguably, have given you a better quality of image. Merit	
B	CENTRE STAGE CELEBRATE THE AUTUMN LEAF	The simple, bold composition you have used here has given you a very effective image. I like the overall sharpness and rich tonal values you have achieved which has enabled yo to bring out all the detail in this part of the leaf you have chosen for us to see. It has been very well handled, technically, and I like the fact that you have placed the leaf against the lighter pale blue sky – very effective. A very pleasant image but I would like to have seen that edge of the leaf middle right full included in the frame. But, in this grade an: Honours	
B	COLOURS OF AUTUMN	I like the fact that you have thought outside the square in terms of the set subject to give us this table top image incorporating the colours of autumn. I enjoyed the colours and to some degree, the composition, although I would have preferred to see more separation vertically between the two right hand elements – perhaps just a little offset to give a more dynamic feel to the composition. Also, I felt the colours were a little subdued, which could well have been corrected by a little post production lighting adjustment work in photo editing (check your levels, for a start). This would give the image the needed greater vitality and life. Sharpness is a little on the soft side, which probably reflects the small aperture you have used. You would probably have achieved an adequate depth of field with greater sharpness using somewhere between F11 and f16, with the camera lens combination you have used. Highly Commended	
B	END OF SEASON	This is an extremely well handled still life image. I enjoyed the tonal qualities, the sharpness and the lighting that you have used here. The soft lighting you have used has just that right amount of direction and intensity to give a rounded and moulding effect to the subjects which has resulted in a lovely three dimensional feel to the image with the manner in which you have arranged the elements compositionally adding immeasurably to the quality feel of this image. A very pleasing image, ever so competently handled. Honours	














CAMBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB - SEASONS - JUN 2018



B	FALLEN LEAVES AND GENTLE SUN	Some beautiful autumnal tones in this image of a typical park in autumn. I like the inclusion of the human element to give scale to things but do feel that, here again, the image is not as critically sharp as it should be for this type of image. Just watch you shutter speed/aperture ratios here and make sure you have enough of the former to achieve reasonable sharpness. I feel the compositional balance here is OK but question the need to include the area to the right of the tree on that side of the image – it is not contributing much to the overall balance and wonder if a few steps to the left to place that tree on the right hand edge and to open up the area into which the two people are walking, might have been stronger? An image that could have been just that bit stronger with some extra thought – I feel. Merit	
B	NAKED LADY END OF SEASON	Some nice, reasonably sharp detail in this seed head but let down a whisker by the strong, directional lighting creating some darker shadow areas. Perhaps a flatter lighting condition, or, maybe modifying the bright light with reflector(s) would have been helpful here. However I do like the angled presentation on this image and the fact that you have captured some nice detail and catch lights on these three seed heads. Highly Commended	
B	PAEROA SCENE	Some lovely rich autumnal tones in this image with some wonderful weak seasonal light on these trees, and particularly, in the river under the bridge. I sure hope you took some more images around the river in this beautiful mystical lighting. Whilst the lighting and sharpness, and technical aspects of this image are great I am not convinced that the composition is as strong as perhaps it could be. Yes, you have captured what is there very well, but the image just lacks a strong compositional structure. Perhaps a walk around may have found a stronger balanced image, or more directional lighting, each of which may well have given it a more dynamic feel to it? Highly Commended	
B	SEASON OF MISTS	Another image capturing nice mystical autumn tones, arguably, just a little light in tonality, certainly on my monitor. I quite like to compositional balances here but do feel, that if you can put aside the actuality of the scene as you saw it, flipping the image horizontally would improve the composition somewhat, allowing our usual left to right reading brain to better comprehend the quality of it by using the beautiful light on the reeds to lead you into the image. But you have certainly captured nicely the feel of autumn with good sharpness and detail. Highly Commended	
B	STROLLING IN THE FOG	Autumn – the ever popular season for photographers! This one in a heavier fog has been reasonably well captured in an exposure tending towards the high key area. The compositional balances here are good with the larger tree nicely placed on the Golden Mean and counter balanced by the larger more distant group on the left and the lone tree on the hillside on the right. I enjoyed the person and his dog in the image but would have preferred to have seen them as a more dominant part of the composition. A pleasant image, certainly evocative of the season Highly Commended	
B	SUMMER HARVEST	Some nice rich colours in this image and good depth of field to cover all the people in the field. Not at all sure why you have presented this image in the vertical format – I suspect a landscape format would have worked better and would have cut out much of the sky at the top. Not too sure, either, why you have photographed the person in the foreground with her back to the camera – perhaps a few steps to the right to photograph her side on would have been more preferable to both tell the story and give a more pleasing aspect to the image? Highly Commended	
B	SUMMER ON THE PIER	The middle of the day lighting is not the most flattering for this image but you have made the best of it with good sharpness and detail and what shadow patterns there are adding that little bit more to the composition, as indeed do the two figures. A very good representation of this pier but I would love to see it rendered in more sympathetic light – sometime. Highly Commended	
B	SUNRISE OVER PARATU STATION	You have captured this wonderful early morning light well and I love the detail and feel you have captured in this scene. It shows the overall landscape here well, in its entirety, and well done for that, but there are individual elements of parts of this landscape that could bear further more detailed investigation and I sure hope you so did. As it stands it works well although I could be tempted to crop out the sky just to hold the eye into the beauty of the landscape. Maybe, just a little tweaking of the exposure and contrasts to add a little more drama to the image, but still a lovely image, however you present it. Honours	
B	SUNSET OVER TAPUAE O UENUKU	The high contrast levels between the sky and the landform are working against you here and the composition you have given us is pretty much a half and half. With the heavy shadow on the landform it will not be possible to bring out much detail there thus I would suggest that compositionally, it would pay to crop out the lower half of this area to place the apparent horizon towards the lower third and place more emphasis on the lovely sunset sky. I like the angled line between the land and sky and with a little more juicing up of the colours in the sky, I feel the image would be better balanced and more impactful. Merit	
B	THE WARM TONES OF AUTUMN	A nice table top image of these autumn leaves, very well arranged compositionally. The lighting used (window light?) is softly directional, which is good, but has left a few bright areas on some of the leaves, which could/should be attended to in your photo editing programme. I like the slight fall off of the lighting from left to right and the general overall sharpness that you have achieved. Overall, a well handled image. Honours	

B	THE END OF SUMMER	This old seed head is nicely positioned in the frame but lacks good overall sharpness on the main subject—the selection of a more sympathetic aperture would have been helpful, I feel. I like the out of focus background that echoes the shapes and colours of the seed heads, although, I would be tempted just to tone down some of the brighter areas to ensure they do not compete with the main subject. Some subtle vignetting around the periphery of the image would be helpful too. Overall, the curved composition of the seed heads works well but with a little work on the background the image as it stands would be improved, I feel. Highly Commended	
B	VIEW FROM SKI LIFT	A well exposed and colourful image of this mountain landscape. I enjoyed the composition with the angled hillside nicely setting off the foreground buildings against the distant mountains and sky. Some lovely detail in the foreground snow and buildings, indicating great exposure control, all offset by the distant mountains being in a lesser lighting situation. This use of lighting ratios has given a much more dynamic feel to the image than might otherwise have been the case in this lighting condition. If it were mine I would be tempted to crop off a little of the right hand side just to place Mt Ngaruahoe in a slightly stronger position but otherwise, I very much enjoyed this image. Honours	
B	WALKING IN THE RAIN	This image nicely encapsulates the feel of a wet day. I like the fact that the woman is wearing a bright yellow cardigan, which is a counterpoint to the dismal day, and the fact that it is echoed by the yellow, out of focus, pole in the background. Compositionally, I feel the person is rather central and wonder if some cropping of the image to place her in a stronger position on the L/H side of the image would be helpful. Perhaps, flipping it horizontally would be helpful too. The image certainly has good feel of the day – it just needs a little adjustment to enhance the inherently good compositional elements contained within it. Highly Commended	
C	AUTUMN LEAF ON MONDO GRASS	Nice colour on this lone autumn leaf set against a rather dark background – perhaps a little selective lightening of the background could be helpful to balance the rather dim black areas there. I like the simple composition but would suggest that it could be tightened somewhat to place the leaf in a stronger position in the whole. Also, in addition to considering some opening up of the darker background areas you could selectively adjust the exposure and colours on the leaf to better show the detail of it. Potentially, a fine image but just needs some additional post production attention to bring out its full value. Highly Commended	
C	AUTUMN YELLOW	Nice and sharp with good rich colour rendition showing this scene in good realistic detail. Technically, the image has been very well handled but compositionally, it is rather static and square on. I wonder if you had considered taking a more creative take on this tree by pointing the camera away from the horizontal, for instance, and considering a more dynamic take on the scene, or part of it. Perhaps pointing the camera upwards and selecting a part of the tree against the sky - or even selecting a few leaves, or groups thereof and making a strong composition of that? You have the technical issues under control – perhaps just a little more thought about the composition and balance would be helpful? Highly Commended	
C	AUTUMN 1	Sadly, there are some issues with this image, which is a pity as it does have some good potential composition and lighting attributes. The first issue is that the main subject tree is not sharp, and it should be, Secondly, the image needs some selective lighting adjustments to make it more dynamic. For example, the main tree would benefit from greater colour saturation and the background needs some tonal refinement to give a darker background to the front tree whilst still retaining some subdued background information. Such lighting and tonal adjustments would really make this image pop but the fundamental lack of sharpness in the foreground tree remains as problematic, sadly. A flip, horizontally, could be considered from a compositional viewpoint, too. Merit	
C	AUTUMN 2	This has been a very well handled image from a technical viewpoint with good sharpness and lovely rich autumnal colours. The directional lighting has enabled you to show the textures of these leaves, although, I would be tempted to open up a little some of the shadow areas to reveal even more detail. Compositionally it is reasonably strong but could arguably be made even stronger if the main leaf were placed on a more dynamic angle, but, overall, this is a very creditable effort for this grade which merits an: Honours	
C	CHANGE OF SEASONS	A wide landscape which shows us this area of the country in some good representational detail. Not taken in the most sympathetic light, which is a pity, given the potential of the interplay of light and shadow that a more sympathetic lighting condition would have given you. As it stands some selective post production work could be done to enrich the colours and tones in parts of the image and perhaps, a little work on the sky to pull back the exposure there would be helpful to give you a more dynamic image. Compositionally, the angled presentation of the vineyards is good as a lead into the image. A little more sympathetic tweaking to this image would result in a more compelling image, I feel. Highly Commended	
C	END OF THE GRAPE SEASON	A simple, but very strong image, well handled. I like the simple, but excellent composition balance you have given us here with the grape bunch very strongly placed with in the image and the whole set against a light background which is just retaining enough detail to place the grapes in context. There is little that I would change here given the overall high quality of this image – perhaps a horizontal flip and maybe some selective tonal enhancement, but these are minor and personal adjustments that I might make to an image which is so structurally and compositionally good. Honours	

C	FAIRY HOME	A generally excellent image of this fungi, pretty well handled technically with good sharpness through most of the critical parts of the image. I like the fact that the main subject has been rendered in sharp focus with the background running out into softer focus, but retaining the sense of it being in a natural context. The histogramme is showing the overall exposure as being accurate but I do feel the image would benefit from some selective zonal exposure adjustments, particularly around the brighter areas towards the edges of the image. As it stands, it almost looks as if you have applied a light vignette around the edges of the image, and whilst that may not have been the case, I do feel that a dark vignette around these peripheral areas would immeasurably improve the feel of the image. Overall, potentially a lovely image and for the that potential, in this grade, I would like to award an: Honours	
C	HOLDING ON	Another image isolating a single leaf element from the wider environment. This one has been reasonably well handled but I would have preferred if you had used a little more depth of field to render all of the leaf in sharp focus. For me, the light area of the sky, top left, is drawing my eye away from the leaf and I would have preferred a composition that eliminated that. Perhaps a tightening of the presentation to eliminate some of the area on the left hand side would be helpful, too. But, I do like the subtle back lighting revealing the detail and texture of this leaf that your image is showing us. Perhaps a more upfront and closer presentation would be helpful? Highly Commended	
C	IT'S A TUI SPRING	A nice rendition of this bird in its natural environment. These birds are difficult to photograph well, given their propensity to move quickly and erratically around the trees and you have done well here to get a good sharply focused image of the bird. The colour tones on the bird, often difficult to catch well, have been well captured too. Compositionally, I feel you have included rather too much here and I would be tempted to crop out much of the out of focus blossom on the right to place the bird in a stronger and more prominent position in the overall image. Perhaps, even a vertical presentation to enable the eye to concentrate on the bird and to eliminate much of the dominating pink colour of the blossom, would be helpful? Potentially, a lovely image which, with a little re-orientation, could be a great natural history presentation. Highly Commended	
C	LEAF CEMETERY	A pleasant image of this "dead centre" area under the trees. I have the sense of just tad too cool a colour balance in this one, which could have been corrected at the photo editing stage. Also, the light catching the right hand side of the autumn tree has resulted in a little over exposure at this point which could be similarly corrected. But, otherwise, the image is reasonably sharp throughout and nicely represents this area in late autumn. I might be tempted to crop off the two tree trunks on the left hand side – I feel this strengthens the composition, which, with the selective adjustments detailed above, would give you a stronger image. Highly Commended	
C	POLLEN SEASON SUMMER	A creditable close up image of the flower and the bee. I enjoyed the fact that you captured both the bee and its shadow against the white of the lily's petals. I like the fact that both the bee and most of the yellow stamens are nice and sharp, with all of this offset by the creamy white texture of the flowers petals. Perhaps a slightly more offset taking position would have given you an even more dramatic image with the shadow featuring more as a compositional element, but these things are easier said than done in the heat of the moment. A little more attention post production in photo editing could bring out some richer tones and reveal the structure of the flower petals, I would suggest. Highly Commended	
C	READY FOR WINTER	Yes, and a right royal warm one it will be for this tree. You have captured some lovely rich colours and detail in the knitwear and managed to get a good exposure on much of the background with the exception of the ground behind the tree. A difficult mission to get both right but perhaps you could reclaim a little more detail in your editing process. Alternatively, if you were to crop out the lower trunk and concentrate on the upper branches you would eliminate much of the over exposed area. Sometimes, less is more in terms of a balanced composition. Merit	
C	THE FALLEN	Another well handled exposure of a single autumn leaf using the lighting to enhance the translucent nature of this leaf. It is nice and sharp allowing you to show the tracery of veins running through the leaf. The exposure is bang on with lovely rich colour, which works reasonably well against the stark dark background, although I would have preferred to see a little colour there to indicate a natural background. A complementary autumn tone, perhaps? But lovely use of light. Honours	
C	TOADSTOOL TRIO	Nice sharp rendition of the three toadstools allowing the delicate detail of the underside gills to be revealed. The exposure on the three subject toadstills is good but unfortunately they are competing with the bright sunny light on the background which is all but overwhelming the delicate textures of the three subjects in the foreground. You might try to pull back the brightness of the background but I doubt it could be adjusted to be subordinated to that on the subjects. It is such a pity that these lighting ratios are working against what would otherwise be a very good natural history image. If you can, with natural history subjects, try to have your background in a more subdued lighting condition so that it does not compete with the main subject(s). Highly Commended	
		Best overall set image	
		A Winter Romance with End of Season an Honorable Mention!	

CAMBRIDGE CAMERA CLUB OPEN SECTION FEB 2018

GRADE	OPEN > TITLE	COMMENTS	IMAGE
A	BEAUTY IS ONLY SKIN DEEP	Regretably, this image is not sharp, and it should be. Also, I have the sense that it is rather overexposed. A pity really as there is some interaction taking place between the two animals, which usually will add interest to any natural history or nature image. Not Accepted	
A	FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC	You have captured an interesting expression on the face of this player. It certainly adds to the feel of an image if you can capture a musician when he/she is so emotionally involved in the music. Whilst you have shown the player in his entirety I feel you could crop out the lower area below his knees, which would then place more emphasis on the instrument he is playing and the emotion on his face. Also, from a technical aspect just be careful when selectively altering the lighting on the background – a halo effect is visible around the body of the player. Merit	
A	LACE COVERED WINDOW	This is a nicely handled image, both in terms of the exposure and the composition. I particularly like the feel of the image and the way you have handled the exposure of the elements in and around the window, as well as the exterior elements. There is lovely crisp and sharp detail in all the elements around the window and I particularly like the way the exposure on the walls around the window has been held back yet sufficient contextual detail has been shown. All this enables the eye to be lead to the window area and to the building detail outside. Well done! Honours	
A	MILKY WAY OVER ONEMANA	This is a creditable astro photography effort. I like the angled composition of the Milky Way and the sliver of the land form that you have given us as base to the image. The exposure is good with reasonably sharp detail in the stars and slightly warm colour tones in the sky. A pity, perhaps, that there was not another foreground compositional element at hand to add contextual interest to this good image. Highly Commended	
A	OUR KINGDO	You have captured these two animals in a typical pose, wary of intruders in their vicinity. I like the placement of them against a typical background environment, which is rendered nicely in softer focus, plus I like the subtle compositional lead in lines of the grass in the foreground. The overall exposure and the warm tonal registration is fine leading to a feel of a very pleasant image. My one caveat is that the animals are just a little unsharp and I feel that the sharpest plane of focus is on the grass just in front of the beasts. Such a pity as I love the feel of this image. Highly Commended	
A	SOUTH AFRICAN NYALA	This is a beautifully sharp image bringing out some wonderful detail in the face of this animal. Compositionally, I like the fact that you have used the upper body of the animal as the leading line in to the image and the fact that you have captured the interest of the animal which has turned around to look at the camera. I particularly like the rendition of the tones on the body of the beast which are echoed nicely in the out of focus, but environmentally sensitive background. It all works extremely well as a cohesive and pleasant natural history image. Improvements? One could argue that a small crop off the left hand side would put the animal in a stronger position compositionally as indeed, would flipping the image horizontally, but in all other aspects this is a beautifully crafted image. Honours	
B	GO AWAY	Yep, I sure would – you would not see me for dust! The positioning of this “cat” in the frame is quite good showing both the head of the beast and that of its body but I feel that most of the right hand third of the image is unnecessary, and could profitably be cropped off. The out of focus intrusion at the bottom left is rather obtrusive and should be cropped out which, with the R/H crop I have suggested would give you a tighter and much stronger image. Unfortunately, too, the image is not really sharp, reflecting the slow shutter speed you have used with the long lens. I do, however, like the exposure and colour balances but I would need to see the image presented in sharper focus to mark it higher for you. Merit	
C	A HAPPY FISHERMAN	This image has some good natural history elements about it. Firstly, it is sharp with good detail and, secondly, it shows the bird doing something, having just caught its prey. You have filled the frame well and placed the bird nicely against its natural environment although I would have liked to have seen the bird's feet. The exposure is good on the bird but, perhaps a little selective exposure adjustment across the top of the image would have enhanced the feel of the image somewhat. Highly Commended	
C	BUILDING A HOME	It is very satisfying to be able to catch a bird in flight as well as you have here. It is nice and sharp and you have exposed well to capture the colour and detail of both the bird and its nesting material. The out of focus yet subtly varied texture of the background, nicely complements the bird, and is suggestive of its natural environment. Again, nice to see a bird captured going about its business – in this case, home building. An excellent effort in your grade! Honours	
C	EXPLORING GRANNIES FOREST	This is a pleasant capture of this little lady doing Grannie's work. I rather like the way you have arranged the compositional elements in this image with the little girl placed strongly on the R/H third with the counterpoint of the rake on the diagonal and the environmental detail of the winter trees in the background. Together with the monochromatic treatment this all gives the image a fine early winter feel. Feel is so important in any image and you have achieved this well. The only area of this image that worries me is the out of focus root area bottom L/H much of which could probably be cropped off, together, perhaps, with a little off the R/H side just to retain the image balance. A slightly tighter crop such as suggested would make the lovely image even stronger, I suggest. Highly Commended	
C		An interesting concept, thought and title. I can see the colours of three of the seasons but not that of winter, which is probably just as well right now. I like the abstract treatment of this image and the tonal colours which in the main are colourful and rich. It is perhaps a little unfortunate that the lighter and brighter areas in the image are around the edges, particularly top left which is tending to take my eye out of the image. Perhaps cropping out some of this area would be profitable? Highly Commended	
C	d in flight	A nice capture of this bird in flight but sadly it is not as sharp as it should be, particularly, given the shutter speed you have used. A slightly unusual tone to the background but in context with the tones of the bird. Compositionally, the bird is placed well in the top R/H third area but I have the feeling that there is just a little too much vacant space in the image and feel that it could be cropped down somewhat to place the bird as a stronger element in the image. I would be tempted to apply some colour correction to the bird, in particular, to eliminate most of the yellow cast evident through out the image. Merit	
C	SHAKEN SHOWER	How often do we see this with a dog at the beach and how often do we see it so well captured. I enjoyed the use of a comparatively shallow depth of field to capture the head of the dog in sharp focus with the rest of its twisting body falling into softer focus around all the water droplets being shaken off the dog. This gives the image a great feel and nicely encapsulates the moment and movement of the flying spray and the fur moving in all directions. You have placed the dogs head in a strong position compositionally, just a little off centre with the whole body with its darker tones offset nicely against the lighter out of focus tones of the beach. Well done. Honours.	

C	SHIPS PASSING INTHE NIGHT	You have captured some lovely warm tones of the sunrise/sunset here with the two ships in sharp focus. I wonder if you have just included a little too much in this composition leaving the ships, which arguably, should be rather more prominent in the image, as rather insignificant parts of the story. Also, if you are to include both vessels, that on the right needs to be totally in the image. My feeling is that the image lies in the area including the left hand ship and that perhaps a fairly severe crop off the right hand side, and a little off the top, to give a more square shaped image, might have given you a stronger image. I do like the colours, though and the fact that everything is nicely in focus. Merit	
C	VIETNAMESE RICE FARMER	This is an excellently handled environmental portrait of this lady. You have beautifully captured the heart and soul of this peasant woman from the weary resignation on her face which is reflected in the harsh peasant environment in which she lives and works to the few straws of the seed stems she has in her hands, all so redolent of a peasant environment. The positioning of her in the frame is perfect as indeed is the depth of field you have used to ensure both she and her immediate environment is rendered perfectly sharp, yet the background drifts off into a lovely sympathetic out of focus backdrop. One ever so slight caveat – I would be tempted to just tone down the slightly brighter area in the top left background, but otherwise, this is an exceptionally well taken image, especially given your grade. Well done!!! Honours!	
		Vietnamese Rice Farmer	