

Grade	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	Downtown-Auckland - A nice busy street scene. For me, the red traffic lights act as a visual stop, creating tension as the headlights from the cars come towards you, yet the eye wants to follow the street down and away into the distance. In my view the headlights are overexposed, and the starring is too broad and dominant, breaking up the left side of the frame and competing with the shopfronts — the author could pull back the highlights and whites sliders in lightroom, taking care not to turn the highlights grey. The image also feels a little dull; a subtle lift in Contrast and a smidge of Dehaze would add some extra punch and help it feel crisper. On my monitor there is some lens flare on the right and empty space worth cropping to tighten the composition and keep the eye in the centre. A worthy streetscape which fits the theme well.	10.5	
A	City Rebuild - A nice busy street scene. For me, the vibrant base anchors the image nicely, and the crane draws the eye up and through the frame. I also enjoy the repeating patterns in the building's floors. In my view the black space at top doesn't add to the image and I would suggest cropping down to just above the crane, or even tighter to let the lower half with the graffiti and people tell the story. On my monitor there is banding in the blue, consider easing dehaze and contrast in that area. It could also be created by the file format when saved. The red blobs at top and the cut-off graphic at bottom left distract me and the author could consider a different crop to address this. Use of a tripod with a higher shutter speed (or a bump in ISO) would sharpen things up. A great scene with real potential and I encourage the author to explore different compositions to maximise this.	12	
A	Colours Spill A Shadow Waits - What a beautiful and creative image this is - fabulous movement, exposure and lighting control here. The reflection and texture in the sand really anchoring the story and adding depth to what could otherwise be a flat scene. In my view the changing colours are gorgeous, shifting through the frame in a way that keeps the eye moving, and I love the intriguing texture in the lights, almost as if they were flashing or pulsing as the shot was taken. There's a real sense of energy and creativity in how this has been composed and executed. Real wow impact, and genuinely memorable image.	19.5	
A	Devonport Wharf - This is a nice, busy dusk scene at the wharf, against the setting sun. On my monitor the sky feels bright against a dark, somewhat muddy rest of image. The author could consider lifting the shadows slider in Lightroom, and a touch of dehaze, to help balance this. In my view the heavy vignette does not add to the image, and I would encourage the author to consider reducing or removing it. The light inside the boat, and on the funnel, are a distraction for me, and the car at the edge takes you out of the scene – use of the remove tool could help with these. The image feels a bit soft and if the opportunity rose again, I would suggest the use of a tripod and possibly a remote trigger to reduce any camera movement. I enjoy the interaction of the two figures at the front and I think there is a genuinely neat story here, well worth pursuing further.	10	
A	Emerald River - I love the idea of this image with the vibrant lights on the bridge spilling into the water. In my view the horizon could be straighter as I find it leaning down to the left, and the greens are oversaturated – this could be corrected in lightroom by reducing saturation of greens on the colour mixer. Some blown-out areas on the bridge and building on the left could be tamed with the highlight's slider. Use of a tripod, and low shutter speed could smooth out those ripples in the water nicely. To reduce distractions cropping in to the bridge edges would draw the eye into the arch rather than the brightness at the sides, keeping focus on the architecture. A nice concept that could score higher with some technical adjustments.	13	
A	Half Moon Bay at Night - Wow impact on first viewing for me — that soft blur in the water creates lovely smoothness, and the orange and blue tones work beautifully together to create real atmosphere. In my view the masts being cut off shouldn't normally work, but here it does, letting the poles and boat shapes become the heroes of the composition in a way that feels intentional rather than accidental. On my monitor there's a touch of colour banding in the water — a light dehaze reduction in Lightroom would settle this nicely. There is a brighter patch in the water on the right, and 2nd boat on the left is bright which pulls the eye which a careful adjustment with the highlight took could address. The author could consider flipping the image so the lighter boats are on the right which would flow with how the eyes want to naturally view an image. Nicely exposed with lovely leading lines throughout, and the repeating patterns of the boats add real interest across the whole frame.	17.5	

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A	lake sky scene - There is some interest here, with the plane crossing the sky and the soft reflection in the lake below. In my view the stars are out of focus, which makes them appear larger and amplifies the softness in the image. The use of a tripod, and the infinity focus point on the lens would help here, or locking on to one bright star and manually adjusting focus, until it was as small and crisp as possible, would help. On my monitor the image appears bright and I would like to see the sky a deeper black to add some depth – deepening the shadows, or increasing the blacks would help here. There is noticeable noise, particularly in the water – use of the Denoise tool or increasing Luminance could clean this up. The yellow/orange fringing on the stars is chromatic aberration, best corrected manually in the Optics panel. I do enjoy the reflection, and the shafts of light rising up through the clouds.	7	
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Grade	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	Las vegas strip before dawn - What a beautiful, crisp image full of iconic architecture - taken at an excellent time of day to capture the feel of the city. Very nicely exposed throughout the scene. On my monitor there's some strong banding in the sky, which could come from file compression or over-processing – it could be worth the author checking they are exporting in sRGB, and possibly easing back Dehaze/Contrast to reduce this. The height of the tower leaves large empty areas top left and right but in this image it works, with the ferris wheel on left and globe on right giving balance. For me the bright blue globe on the left dominates the frame more and reducing its highlights with a brush mask would balance this nicely and keep the eye where it belongs, on that lovely central architecture.	16.5	

Grade	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	Night Streaker - There are some nice elements here for me — the light trails and starring around the lights are handled nicely, and the highlights are well exposed throughout the frame. In my view the large black area top right dominates a little too much and feels unbalanced against the busier lower portion. Lifting the shadows slightly and a small exposure boost in Lightroom would bring more life to the scene overall, and a light touch of the clarity tool would sharpen it up without introducing noise. A few minor distractions worth addressing — the spot of blue below the light, the blue car, and the stray light left of the tower — could be cloned out with the clone tool to keep the eye focused on the main subject. Overall, I enjoy the sense of movement that the light trails bring, combined with the static still of the night.	13	
A	nightfall - In this coastal image I enjoy the patterns in the sand and the texture of the waves rolling in, combined with the variety of people enjoying the beach. In my view it doesn't quite feel nighttime enough to fit the theme and because of this I am choosing to pass it in.	9	
A	Night Watch - A nice low-key portrait against the cloudy night sky — you can almost feel the moment of taking a sip to keep warm, and I enjoy that sense of aloneness and quiet contemplation running through the whole image. For me there is a good use of light on the face and hands to create mood and draw the eye to the right places. In my view it could be a touch sharper – use of a higher shutter speed (with appropriate iso adjustment) could address this. I find my eye is pulled to the lightest part of sky at the edge and the empty space in front feels a little much – the author could consider reducing it by a third in front and a smidge at the top which would tighten the composition. To take it further, a subtle brush mask bringing out the highlight on the rising steam would strengthen the storytelling and bring the cold night air to life even more.	16	
A	Starry Night - What a striking star trail image with a full spiral to draw the viewer eye into the centre of the image. The use of a slow shutter speed over the water has created a beautiful smooth surface. I do notice however that the right hand portion of the hills has curved in the stack and the trees are on an angle – if the author had the opportunity to reedit then I would consider correcting this. For me the almost daylight lighting on the hills and lake feels unnatural and I would encourage the author to allow the night to be night and reduce the exposure here. The sky could also benefit from a reduction in exposure, particularly on the blue – to give a “blacker” night sky. I find a few elements distract the eye and bounce my eye around the frame – the brighter water on the left, the water parting over the rocks – particularly the one crossing the frame which leads me out of the image, and some ghosting around the hills on the left – which could be address in edit to take this image to a higher award. The stacking is impressive with many images required to build this effect and I commend the technical skill of the photographer in creating this.	15.5	

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A	Tarawerea Aurora - A lovely aurora capture in a well-composed scene, with nice visual impact — the lone figure at the end of the boardwalk draws the viewer in and through to the beams beautifully, giving real scale to the sky above. Very nice sharpness in the stars with minimal stretching, and the light balance feels natural throughout. On my monitor there's some minor chromatic aberration on the stars - the manual defringe tool in Camera Raw or Lightroom's Optics panel would address the blue and orange fringing effectively. The slow shutter has stretched some star reflections in the water; the brightest ones left and right distract from the aurora itself and could be cloned out in Photoshop. The author could also consider cropping in slightly from the left and top to remove the bright stars on the border and the vignette at both edges.	17.5	
A	The Last Customer - What a nice moment to capture, and very well titled to reflect the story. I really enjoy the dark aqua from the seats and reds echoed in the photograph on the wall, which tie the whole scene together nicely. In my view the author could consider a crop close in to the 3 panels of the main window - the pavement and the wall on right pull the eye away from the real story, the customer sitting alone. I find the left-hand tables and the bright light at top currently distract. A gentle nudge of the vertical transform tool in Lightroom would correct the building's perspective. On my monitor it's quite noisy, which is a shame given the strength of the story — running denoise would help considerably. Overall, I enjoy this interpretation of the theme and enjoy this insight into late night café life.	12.5	
A	The lighting at the bridge - An intriguing scene that draws you in, with an interesting angle highlighting the repeating patterns of the bridge columns, rails and streetlights that run through the whole frame. Very nicely exposed and crisp throughout. There is a tension in the image between the structural almost sculptural elements of the bridge with the artificial lighting and colours and then the softer more natural light from the streetlamps on the left. For me the streetlight is the focal point and anchors the scene – where the purple of the bridge leads the eye up and through the frame before following the softer light down the bank and then resting on the main streetlight and the tension could be resolved by flipping the image so the streetlamp was on the right where the eyes more naturally want to rest. I really enjoy the reflected lights in the water, and there's a lovely sense of fog adding atmosphere.	16	

Grade	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
A	the venetian las vegas - A nice busy, bright city scene with strong lines leading you through the base of the image - nicely exposed, crisp, and I'm enjoying the colours throughout the whole frame. On my monitor there's some banding in the sky, possibly a file format issue, The author could consider deepening the Blacks slightly in Lightroom would give a more natural tone and help mask this more effectively. In my view it's slightly downhill to the right yet the tower also seems to lean a bit to the left - the straighten tool would fix that easily and quickly. The author could also crop from the top to reduce the empty space on the right, tightening the composition around the main architecture. The centre of the green lights feels a touch grey, likely from the highlights being dropped a smidge too far in processing - a gentle Highlights recovery might restore some of that lovely sparkle back into the scene.	16	

Grade	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
B GRADE			
B	Calming Copper - For me this leads the eye nicely into the tunnel and around the corner, and the repeating patterns create a lovely sense of rhythm that carries you through the whole frame. In my view it could be sharper — a tripod, higher ISO to allow a faster shutter speed, and a remote shutter release would all help steady things at night in a space like this. On my monitor the bright light in the centre pulls the eye more than it should – the author could consider use of the Remove tool in Photoshop would take care of that. The handrail's brightness is also a bit distracting — a touch of the Burn tool to reduce the highlights would settle it down nicely. A small straighten to the left would help too. Generally well lit with nice tones, and dark enough throughout to suit the theme well.	13.5	
B	Cellphones and Selfies - A nice candid moment, and I like the contrast between the softness of their elegant dresses and the stark, cold corporate building behind them. In my view the author could consider cropping all round, particularly top and bottom to bring the people forward more within the frame. On my monitor the vertical door handles are the brightest point in the frame and distract from the story - toning them down with the Highlights slider under a brush mask in Lightroom, or the Burn tool in Photoshop, would help. The women also blend into the building in places; lifting the midtones slightly would create more separation.	12	

	This is a nice bit of social commentary, together yet in their own worlds despite standing side by side		
B	Copacabana - I enjoy this view of the beach surrounded by towering buildings — the sweeping curves and repeating patterns in the buildings, lights and beach arches work beautifully together, and the crowd gives lovely scale and scope to the whole scene. In my view the brightest lights are a touch distracting; reducing the highlights with a brush mask in Lightroom would help settle them. On my monitor the bottom right corner is an almost solid blue, which is possibly a balcony edge from where the image is taken, and the sky is badly banded and pixellated - worth checking your export format, as this looks like a compression issue rather than a processing one. The author could consider a bit of border control by cleaning up the trees at the base and the bright orange lights on the building to the right – both of which pull the eye out of the scene - either with a crop or the clone tool. A great capture of the city's night-time energy and busyness which is well composed overall.	13.5	
B	Fae Folk - A captivating portrait - I really enjoy the staging here, and she's perfectly waif-like, with such a natural, unguarded expression. In my view the flowers sit just a touch tall above her head and slightly bright, pulling the eye from that beautifully lit face - toning down the highlights on the blooms with a brush mask would settle this nicely and keep the focus where it belongs. The image is sharp throughout, and the lighting has been well handled to create real mood. I love the mystery in her gazing out of frame, adding a real sense of intrigue that lends itself to the theme beautifully - a lovely innovative interpretation of the theme.	19	
B	First Star I See Tonight - A peaceful moment at the end of a sunset for me. In my view the star sits a bit far from the trees, leaving not much story in the middle of the frame - I'd love to see this shot again when the star is lower and closer to the horizon. On my monitor there's a pink ring around the star from chromatic aberration; the manual Defringe tool in Camera Raw or Lightroom's Optics panel would fix this cleanly. The star also isn't quite sharp – when in the field the author could zoom in on live view while adjusting focus to find the smallest, crispest point - or using the infinity mark on your lens to find the sweet spot. Toning down the bright highlights on the lower trees would also settle the eye and keep it on the sky. I enjoy the lovely tonal variation in the clouds and colours in the sky that really set the mood	13	
B	Karapiro Dam - For me there's a lovely sweeping curve to this dam. In my view the brightest lights are blown out; pulling back the Highlights slider, without letting it go too grey, would help restore some detail. On my monitor the image feels soft — denoising has likely added to that softness. A way to address this in the field is the use of a tripod and remote shutter release to minimise camera movement. There is some distracting lens flare around the first light – use of a lens hood, and ensuring no filters are on the camera for night shooting can help prevent this. The image feels slightly downhill to the right – gentle use of the straighten tool could resolve this. The author could consider lifting the shadows a touch to bring out more detail in the trees behind for added depth and interest. I enjoy the texture of the moss against the concrete along with the strong leading lines running through the frame	11.5	

Grade	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
B	Santa Teresa View - A nice scene across the city for me, with lovely elements - the bridge, lights and buildings on the low hills create a rhythm that gives real depth. Nicely exposed overall, with good detail held throughout. In my view the bright cloud top right pulls the eye out of frame, and there's a smattering of distracting lights on the back hills – the author could consider cropping both sides down to just below the lights to keep focus on the cityscape itself. On my monitor the red roof at bottom right could be cloned out in Photoshop to bring the tree line down cleanly, and a small straighten to lift the right would help. There's also a touch of noise, and colour artifact, near the smoke in the background — consider subtle use of the colour noise reduction slider in Lightroom. A lovely scene that with a few adjustments could easily gain a higher award.	14.5	

B	Tranquil Blues - I recognise this shot from earlier in the set, but the cool tone here gives it a lovely sense of almost being underwater. As with the first image, the Remove tool in Photoshop would take out the bright light in the centre and let the eye flow naturally through to the blues at the end. In my view it could be sharper overall and suggest the use of a tripod to allow for a lower shutter speed, paired with a remote shutter to minimise camera shake, would help considerably in this low light. On my monitor this version is a touch dark - consider lifting the Shadows slider in Lightroom which would bring out more detail without losing that cool, underwater mood. A straighten pass would also tidy the lines up nicely throughout. I enjoy the repeating patterns of the columns, windows and curved pipes drawing you through the tunnel.	13	
C GRADE			
C	c-night-moves For me, this image evokes distant memories of community parks being used for team training on cold, foggy nights. The young players and coach on the sideline tell a nice story, while the goal on the right provides context and anchors the composition. I particularly like how the repeating lights create a visual rhythm across the frame, with the darkness adding a moody atmosphere. In my opinion, the composition could be strengthened by cropping some of the excess dark sky which currently bears down on the players and draws my eye away from the activity. That would also remove the distracting bright lens reflection spots in the sky, and while doing that, I would consider levelling the horizon to give the image a more balanced appearance. I generally find that night photography is a challenge that can introduce grainy noise to the image, so looking at using some subtle post production noise reduction can further improve the finish. Overall, I think this is an atmospheric image with a sense of place and story, and a great starting point for developing your night photography skills. Merit – 9	9	
C	c-Pearly_Gates In my mind, this image evokes an eerie mystery that could easily belong in a 1960s Hitchcock suspense movie, or perhaps be the entrance to a mansion in The Rocky Horror Show. There's a feeling of suspense and history. I like the sense that there is something intriguing hidden beyond the gate. The two strong stone pillars anchor the composition, while the vertical ironwork and arch complement and balance the structure nicely. While the lighting works particularly well in highlighting the white gate and stonework, keeping my attention on the subject, I do feel the image could have even more impact if the darker areas behind the gate were lifted slightly to reveal a little more detail and strengthen the narrative. The bright area on the left does compete for my attention, so I would suggest toning it down in post-processing so the viewer's eye doesn't wander. I think the photographer has observed an intriguing scene, and in doing so, encourages the viewer to fulfil their own imagination. Highly Commended – 14	14	
C	c-Southern_Cross_in_green, This image has me feeling as though I'm travelling late at night towards the illuminated cross, flanked by the trees. On another level, it has an almost alien feel to it. I particularly like the way the pattern of green lights seems to create a portal, an archway that is drawing me into the scene. The road markings provide a strong lead-in through the traffic lights and towards the cross, while the texture of the road is nicely complemented by the detail in the surrounding trees. I feel the lighting is slightly unbalanced, with some areas becoming quite dark. A subtle adjustment to the exposure, either in camera or during post-processing, could lift the shadows just enough to reveal more detail without losing the moody atmosphere. This is a useful technique to explore when working with challenging night-time lighting. For the set subject, I feel this is an image that transforms an everyday scene into something fascinating and it shows a good eye for finding an engaging image in familiar surroundings. Commended with – 12	12	
C	C-windows of the soul. For me, there is an appealing contrast between the warmth of the house and the coolness of the night sky. The windows give me a glimpse of that warmth and comfort inside. The geometric lines of the house are balanced by the natural, random branches, framing the moon off to the left. At the moment, my eye moves between the bright moon and the windows, so the story feels slightly divided. In my opinion, the warmly lit windows offer the stronger story. If possible, try repositioning the camera to make the windows more dominant, or experiment with a crop. The lens flare also attracts attention, so I would suggest reducing this subtly in post-processing if it wasn't intentional. I think this is a keenly observed scene with an interesting narrative that you have identified in an everyday setting. Keep exploring these contrasts—they can make very engaging photographs. Commended with – 9pts	9	

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Grade	COMMENTS	Pts	IMAGE
	BEST OF A grade in either Set Colour Spill, Shadow waits		
	BEST OF C grade in either Set Pearly Gates		

GRADE	COMMENTS	Points
A	Fantasy in the City - This is a really creative piece of work for me — I love how you've used lines and patterns to build the composition, layering and blending them in a way that keeps the eye moving through the frame. In my view the complementary colour palette works well, and those colour transitions add interest and depth.. There are a few brighter patches that distract the eye – bottom left, right and top right corner. Some work toning those patches down with the Highlights slider under a brush mask would let the pattern work sing even louder. For me there is a slight distraction along the bottom line – a minor crop here and the right hand side would resolve these. Overall, this is clever and well executed. I appreciate the high level of technical skill shown by the author.	17.5
A	Heron - A well exposed, lovely quiet moment with that gorgeous reflection in beautiful light. I particularly like the toe-tip just touching the water, and the nice catchlight in the sky. On my monitor there appears to be a sharp black edge along the chest of the bird – this could be an issue with processing or the use of a mask. I would suggest addressing this in edit and the author could also consider removing the back spot just in front of the toe as this draws the viewers eye to that point. On my monitor the image appears slightly soft, a higher shutter speed would address this. Overall, this is a very nice capture where there is a lovely sense of the quietness of the moment.	16
A	Ice Crystals On Delicate Globule - What a moment in time to capture for me — so delicate, beautifully lit, and the minimalist presentation suits it perfectly. In my view the patterns within the bubble are intriguing, and it's rightly the hero of the frame with nothing competing for attention. For me, a slightly closer crop could tidy up the blurred edges of the post in the foreground and slightly reduce the empty space at the top – only a smidge as that space gives the bubble room to float. Overall this is a genuinely stunning, quietly powerful image.	19
A	Jasper Wildfire - The river does a nice job leading the eye into the fire for me, and the smoke carries you on up through the frame — I really enjoy the shadows it creates against the mountainside. In my view the images feels slightly curved and a smidge downhill to the right – I would recommend the lens correction tool, or manual transform tools in Lightroom to adjust this. For me the foreground trees, and far left side, are pulling the eye without adding much to the story and the author could consider cropping or cloning them out – and potentially a smidge off the right hand side to remove the patch of light smoke in the trees. On my monitor the image appears soft throughout, using a tripod and a higher shutter speed when taking can improve this. Overall, you have found a strong, dramatic subject, that with some adjustments could be taken to another level.	11.5

A	Johns Grill Since 1908 - I really enjoy this image and think it is a very nice example of the Pep Ventosa technique. I would have liked to see the whole of the car included at the base rather than it being cut off, as that anchors the street level nicely. On my monitor the parking sign distracts the viewer from the title sign, the author could consider cropping this out. For me the colours are quite saturated, particularly the blue – using the sliders on the colour mixer is a good place to soften this slightly. I enjoy the way the lighting draws you into the base of the building where you can see the people, and then leads your eye up the tower – creating scale and drama.	17.5
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GRADE	COMMENTS	Points
A	Kirkjufell - This iconic view from Iceland always enjoyable to see – and this image is a beautiful example. In my view the sky is beautifully exposed and complements the landscape with lovely warm tones. On my monitor it appears that the sky may have been replaced and in places spills over the scene – particularly the top of the mountain and the hills on the right. If this is not the case then I would suggest selective masking and dehazing those areas, of if it is a replacement carefully subtracting the mask from those areas to achieve a more natural effect and give those zones more clarity. I also feel that having a smidge more foreground to avoid cutting off the river would also be beneficial. For me, you have captured the movement of the water well, and the flow draws the eye down and along the river before rising to rest naturally on the mountain. A genuinely beautiful landscape which is aesthetically strong.	17
A	On the Edge - This has nice detail held in the ferns and tree roots, and a good shutter speed capturing the movement of the water nicely. On my monitor the water appears blown out in the centre and that brightness is distracting – it may be possible to correct this using the highlight slider. In the field adjusting the exposure compensation could prevent this. For me the bottom right is bright and draws my attention - the author could consider a subtle vignette to guide the eye to rest more in the centre. I find the dark background gives nice depth, though lifting the shadows slightly could enhance this further. In my view the central composition doesn't show this scene at its best – the author could consider shifting position when taking to enhance the composition or adjust the crop in edit, perhaps also reducing the top of the image which does not add to the story being told. A nice subject that, with a bit more refinement to the framing, could really shine. I really enjoy the super sharp details and textures.	11.5

A	Perfect drying conditions - Such a fabulous, super-creative concept for me — an intriguing way to capture the movement of the spinning washing line, and beautifully exposed too. In my view the pole is quite dominant though, and it anchors the eye down at the left, when the real event is happening above, so I'd love to see the author shift position to let the swirling top become the key feature. On my monitor it's also a touch grainy with a couple of small dust spots on the right worth cleaning up with the Spot Removal tool. For me the colouring around the outside is a bit distracting — the author could consider the use of a radial filter to correct the tone. Overall, a really clever, original idea with room to go even further.	15.5
A	Sleepless - For me this is an effective portrait, with nice use of lighting, lovely texture throughout, and a unique view. The image is nicely exposed given the challenging low-light conditions. In my view it could be a touch sharper — I know that's a genuinely tricky balance between ISO and shutter speed at night. On my monitor there are a few areas pulling the eye that are worth addressing: the deep shadow at bottom left feels like dead space — this could be lifted with targeted use of the shadow tool. The lighter sheet top left along with the cutoff pillow top right both draw the eye out toward the edges — toning these down with the Highlights slider under a brush mask in Lightroom would help keep focus centred on the subject. Overall, a sneak peak into a quiet moment that leaves me questioning just how the author managed to take this view — nicely done.	16

GRADE	COMMENTS	Points
A	The Harliquin - I like the minimalist approach here and the mask is nicely placed on the third. In my view the lighting is mostly flat, with the brightest highlight falling on the left ribbon rather than the face, which is where I'd ideally want it to land. The author could consider the use of a brush mask lifting the Exposure slightly on the face in Lightroom to help bring it to life. Floating in the black expanse without any context makes it feel a little lifeless — use of a different title may have supported the creative concept further. In my view a crop in from the bottom and right would tighten the composition and remove excess negative space. There's genuine potential here that would a few adjustments could gain a higher score.	11

A	The late flight home - A striking silhouette with lovely lighting and I really like the hint of light catching the bird's head and the bird itself is nicely placed on the third. The author could consider masking lifting the Shadows a smidge in Lightroom to bring more life into the water. In my view, the top left of the sky feels a bit plain and empty compared to the rest of the frame and a tighter crop could address this. On my monitor there appears to be a fringing of some sort on the lower wing that seems out of place – the author could consider masking this and deepening the shadow in edit may address this. For me the image could be a touch sharper, and it is a matter of finding that balance between shutter speed versus ISO in low light – the use of a tripod can also help. Overall a lovely, evocative moment with strong atmosphere.	16
A	Wasp - Beautifully sharp with great lighting, excellent detail and gorgeous bokeh — the depth of field here is spot on. In my view a crop in from the left and bottom would give more space in front of the wasp than behind it so the eye has somewhere natural to travel. It would also take out the green at bottom right which draws the eye and reduce the amount of wood visible - letting the subject breathe even more within the composition. A really lovely macro image with strong technical execution throughout.	17.5
B GRADE		
B	a rose by any other name - I enjoy this well-lit still life with a lovely soft, inviting feeling. The flower itself is nicely in focus and I like the placement of the bottle within the frame. In my view the flower does feel a touch large for the size of the vessel though, which throws the balance off slightly. On my monitor the stem is quite dark - lifting the shadows there and masking down the highlights on the bottle with a brush mask in Lightroom would help even things out. I noticed the bottle neck hasn't been fully masked out from the top of the stem, which is a shame and worth another pass with the Clone tool to correct. There are some dark marks in the background and in my view these are worth cleaning up, with the remove or clone tool, as they draw the viewer's eye – the author could use the remove or clone tools to achieve this. I feel that this image could score even higher with some further refinement in edit as overall, this is a good concept, which is beautifully lit.	13.5
GRADE	COMMENTS	Points

B	Daybreak - A vibrant sunset scene where I like the boats sitting in the mist — the exposure is well handled with some pretty colours coming through, and it's a nice concept overall. In my view the image is not sharp, and that's not something that can be fixed easily in the edit phase – use of a tripod and higher shutter speed would make a real difference next time if you had the opportunity to take a similar shot again. For me the boat on the left pulls the eye away from the main scene without adding much to the story. The author could consider a tighter crop in from the left, taking out that boat and the lights in the trees and this then brings the duck in the foreground more into the scene, to become a key element which adds depth, and a deeper story to the image. There's a lovely, calm mood here to build on and the author has demonstrated a good understanding of exposure.	10
B	Whale tail watershed - What a great moment to have captured for me, with the full tail and all that movement in the water. In my view the focus is a touch soft - a higher shutter speed would help freeze that movement, though I know it can be tricky with such a fleeting moment and trying to move with the animal. The author could consider using the mask tool to isolate the whale and water spray, then lifting the shadows and using the texture tool in lightroom to bring out the water droplets which would add some lovely extra detail. For me increasing the Luminance on the blues in the colour mixer would help the water feel brighter. In my view a squarer crop, trimming some sea off top and bottom, could help balance the image and allow the view to see more of the texture in the fan of water, and the detail in the tail. Overall, an exciting subject, and a well-timed capture.	15
	BEST OF B grade in either Set Fae Folk	

IMAGE



IMAGE





IMAGE





IMAGE



