

STAR RATING			TITLE	JUDGING		COMMENT
				SCORE	AWARD	
1	wynand	lens	Airforce 1	10	Gold	All the technicalities are well handled but the diffuse lighting does produce a flattish portrait. Experiment with dodging and burning and see what you can achieve. For a 1 star you have done well.
1	Marisan	Victor	Desert princess	11	Gold	Well done on getting all the technicalities right and adding some creativity. A crop on the left would eliminate the dead space. Overall, well done
1	Marisan	Victor	Nymph	11	Gold	A great engaging portrait with good lighting. Changing the background colour to be complementary would help your subject stand out more. You did do well in blurring the background. A slight crop on the left would centre your subject.
1	wynand	lens	Searching	9	Silver	What an interesting subject. The light is harsh with defined shadows but you can get away with it with this subject. What brings your score down is the high ISO used as it has resulted in excessive noise. There are ways to mitigate that, besides lowering your ISO which are available in post-processing. Any senior member would be willing to help you with that.
1	wynand	lens	Soulful	9	Silver	An interesting portrait and a very good mono conversion. The subjects right eye is almost in focus (the eyelashes are). The lower white area could be cropped as it doesn't add to the image and would bring out your subjects eyes even more. A good effort in low light.
1	Marisan	Victor	The farmer	10	Gold	This is a great environmental portrait. The farmer's gaze is engaging with an expression that can mirror whatever the viewer is feeling. Your choice of Fstop is good as it blurs the background enough to highlight your subject but still make the animals recognisable. A crop on the left and removing dust spots would have earned you an extra point.
2	Jan	Lens	Beard man	9	Silver	This is a case where the wearing of sunglasses works. It adds to his attitude. Your mono conversion is good, covering the full tonal range. However, by applying dodging and burning to your image you can bring more life to your subject and make your image pop (I hate that expression!)
2	Mags	Vosloo	Come Glide with Me	10	Gold	A good portrait with some technical issues for which, as a 2 star, I have not penalised you. The subject could do with a little more space above her head (not always necessary in a head and shoulders shot). A right crop to centre your subject and eliminate some non-contributory space. Lift the shadows to bring out the textures in the clothing. It would have been preferable to have someone level the wing for you by lifting the other which was done at some stage. A good effort that just needs some refinement that will come with time.
2	Jan	Lens	Duzi man	8	Silver	I like the unconventional way you have framed you subject. Having one eye central in the upper third generally works. It is a pity you left your subject in the dark as there is so much to show. It is too dark even for a low-key portrait.
2	Mags	Vosloo	Hotty on Harley	12	Gold	The technicalities are well handled and your post processing is good. A bigger aperture (F5.6 instead of the F9 used would still have given you an adequate depth of field but blurred the background more and made your subject stand out a touch more. A pleasing image.
2	Jan	Lens	Light breeze	10	Gold	A lovely lady whose appearance would be enhanced by lifting the shadows which would lighten her eyes and reduce the contrast between the shadows and light on her face. It is great that you used an off-camera flash but the light is a little harsh. There are several inexpensive ways to soften the light such as shooting backward onto a bigish white object (the white boards used by estate agents, available from printers works well). A reflector on the right would also lift the shadows a bit. Overall the image is too bright to be considered low key but a good effort nonetheless.

2	Mags	Vosloo	Sassy Sense	9	Silver	Well done on getting the technical issues mostly right. I would suggest a right crop so the writing is not visible. Be careful of trying to smooth the skin where it is not needed (this lady had lovely skin / makeup). The result is that the subjects face appears to be blurred when in fact the focus is perfect.
3	Meleney	Naik	Aviators	8	Silver	Your image is well frame but the subjects are not engaging. It would help to lift the luminance of the models to separate them from the background (easy to do in Photoshop which you have used). It was not necessarily your fault but your image does not complement the models: watch their wardrobe. The low angle employed does make the standing model appear somewhat of a giant.
3	Meleney	Naik	Earhart	9	Silver	Your mono conversion is good but levels need adjustment to brighten the image overall and bring out the details in the shadows. A left crop would not go amiss.
3	Magda	Bezuidenhout	Elegant Lady	13	Merit	A superb studio portrait that only needs some vertical cropping and suggesting the model does not leave space between her fingers. Well done.
3	Meleney	Naik	Girl in the Garden	12	Gold	A lovely portrait that is well framed. The two pieces of foliage at face level could be partially cloned out to make the image cleaner. The background is pleasingly blurred, well done.
3	Magda	Bezuidenhout	Hush little baby	13	Merit	Awww cute! The use of blues with the babies natural colouring works really well. Be careful not to cut off objects at the borders (the cushion).
3	Cornelia	Appel	ingane	10	Gold	Lovely vibrant colours captured with this adorable little girl. Overall the image is too dark and could be remedied with a levels adjustment. This may wash out the whites of the beads but as they are peripheral in the image I don't think it would have any material effect.
3	Cornelia	Appel	Intombazane	9	Silver	The angle of lighting used is great but the image is too dark. Be careful of using bright whites on dark skin as if the shadows are raised the beads on your subjects head will be washed out. Not a good idea in this case.
3	Magda	Bezuidenhout	Lost in translation	12	Gold	A great portrait with the whites needing just a slight lifting. A small superior crop would eliminate some dead space. I love this image, it just needs a bit more work.
3	Cornelia	Appel	umama	9	Silver	The lower half of the image, being the brightest, attracts the viewers initial attention whereas it should be her face. Tone that down and you would have a much better image. The lighting on the face is very good. I suggest not using white beads on dark skin
4	Denise	Harvey	A pretty lady	12	Gold	A lovely portrait but consider using frequency separation or your method of choice to smooth out the skin tones of the face, unless of course you want a more natural look. An almost merit image, good stuff.
4	Liesl	Couperthwaite	caught unaware	9	Silver	You have handled the whites very well but the harsh light is not helping you. The eye is too dark and the shadows too harsh. At 4 star level you should start using frequency doubling to improve your images. It is BTW useful in not just portraits but can be used in landscapes, on flowers and virtually any image where manipulation is permitted.
4	Tracey	Rhodes	I see you in mono	12	Gold	This is a lovely, engaging portrait. Consider lowering the brightness of the lower half of the image to put more emphasis on your subjects face (darken the image with levels to see what I mean).
4	Tracey	Rhodes	Just like my mom	10	Gold	This portrait is great but let down by the placement of the subject on the far right of the frame, truncating her arm and leaving lots of dead space on the left. If she was looking into it you may have got away with it.
4	Denise	Harvey	Leon	12	Gold	An intriguing portrait with the mono done well and the background well blackened but at a 4 star level removal of the debris on his shirt and hat is expected, but overall a great effort.
4	Tracey	Rhodes	Marvellous Mom	11	Gold	A happy and appealing image let down by too much space on the left. The shadows are too dark and need to be lifted, especially on her face. Consider using frequency separation or your method of choice to smooth out the wrinkles on the material.

4	Liesl	Couperthwaite	mom and daughter	9	Silver	Good framing of a happy mother and daughter. With portraits it mostly helps to be able to see your subjects eyes and here the sunglasses and hair across the girl's face do detract somewhat. I understand the bright day necessitated the sunglasses but it resulted in the little girl squinting and a bright background. Getting them to face in a different direction may have helped?
4	Denise	Harvey	Sunelle	12	Gold	Sunelle is such a cute model and you have captured her very well. Consider lifting the luminance slightly. I don't know if it was a slip of the pen / mouse that resulted in the two blurred patches on the clothing, but that lost you a point. A pity.
4	Liesl	Couperthwaite	tomboy josi	10	Gold	Another cute subject with an engaging expression. The stray hair in her face emphasises her tomboyish, carefree character. One can imagine she sat still for a short moment but was itching to get back to playing. Bringing down the brightness of the background and lightening her eyes would have helped your image.
5	Des	van Tonder	Adriana Mono	13	Merit	A great studio portrait and mono conversion very well done. Any parent would be happy with that.
5	Leon	Heyes	Attitude	9	Silver	Being taken outdoors one has little control of flyaway hair. If that is the effect one is trying to achieve then a fan or strong wind is required. If not the hair could have been eliminated. Skin smoothing has been well done but it has left the tones patchy. Consider a tighter crop both top and bottom.
5	Des	van Tonder	Ballet Freckles	13	Merit	A gorgeous portrait with lovely lighting. Your subjects pose, expression and clothing reminds one of paintings done by the great masters. Unfortunately the hands appear to have some motion blur which detracts a little.
5	Paul	Naude	Better than Gym	9	Silver	It definitely is hard work! The bright parts on this image detract a lot, the forehead arm and shoulder... such a pity
5	Rob	Hart	Distraction or disinterest	5	Bronze	I am not sure what you are attempting here but it doesn't work for me.
5	Ronelle	van den Heever	Draped model	11	Gold	A great attempt at a studio shot. The bright patches on your models' face are a bit distracting and the skin tone could be evened out a bit better. There is however great potential here.
5	Rob	Hart	Enraptured viewers	11	Gold	What a great moment you have captured and that on its own deserves a high score. I feel you would have done better not converting from colour as the image looks too flat. In colour the background may be distracting but at 5 star level you can mitigate that.
5	Leon	Heyes	Gen with Attitude	11	Gold	Attitude indeed but it appears the model can't wait to get home. Your side of things has been well handled.
5	Heidi	Taylor	Genevieve	13	Merit	This is a great portrait, well done. Even skin tones on the face with shadows where needed. Just what a portrait should be. It would have helped if you had continued the light green at the top of the image either by changing your camera position or in post.
5	Paul	Naude	Get Your Own	10	Gold	Such great attitude! The chrome on the motorbike is a little bright in some areas however, and I feel the eyes of the model could have been processed a bit - just some light added perhaps. Good idea to desaturate the grass - not sure I personally like it, but it does make the model and bike stand out. There are some areas inbetween the spokes of the front wheel that still contain a more saturated grass.
5	Maxi	Holder	Goodbye Thats All She Wrote	12	Gold	A great idea employed but where the model needs more emphasis. If she was positioned a bit further from the 'plane and a lower ISO used you could have used a wider aperture to blur the 'plane a little which would go towards achieving this.

5	Ronelle	van den Heever	Harley pose	10	Gold	A fun portrait where having left a lot of space on the right one expects your subject is about to go roaring off. However, that is unlikely in which case there is too much wasted space which needs to be cropped. A slight superior crop would also help. Your model needs to be separated a bit more from the background, either by lightening her or blurring the background. Well done on a good mono conversion.
5	Paul	Naude	If Only	11	Gold	The processing to mono is good, the sharpness and therefore detail on the bike and man is good. Love the angle of the shot. There is something weird happening on his right cheek where the beard meets the background... and I bit of haloing around certain parts of the bike, I think this happened when the background was being darkened.
5	Roger	Fanner	Its Hairy	12	Gold	If one looks just at your subject you have done very, very well. You obviously wanted to give the viewer a sense of place and used a large aperture to blur it. You achieved that but cropping would still afford that and reduce the clutter in the background. The lighting on the model is superb and I find this a very appealing image.
5	Heidi	Taylor	Loadshedding light	9	Silver	An interesting concept and light which unfortunately does not flatter your subject. She kept very still for the 0.2 second exposure used, quite impressive.
5	Ronelle	van den Heever	Lorraine in colour	12	Gold	A well lit portrait of a great subject. You have obviously intended to portray the model "as is" with minimal manipulation. That does not detract from your image. The frame used is just as it should be if one is to be used and is often required with dark backgrounds. Cropping on the right would have earned you a merit for this great photograph.
5	Heidi	Taylor	Lorraine	12	Gold	A good "in your face" portrait, well done. Reducing the highlight on her nose and lightening her irides would benefit the image. Overall, a pleasing image.
5	Des	van Tonder	On the phone	13	Merit	A great low key image with very few negatives, well done.
5	Maxi	Holder	Preparing For Takeoff	10	Gold	The technicalities are well handled (except for the horizon) and there is very little fault to find. The image though does not hold one's attention and it is easy to skip over it and onto the next.
5	Roger	Fanner	Purple Haze	10	Gold	Your camera positioning gives your model an imperious air, well done on that. It appears to me that the little processing that was done was done in a hurry as there is so much that can be done to improve it and give your model the image she deserves. Maybe next time?
5	Terry	Burne	Rachel 5084(3)	13	Merit	What great detail you have captured both of the model and the bike and because of that I am not sure what I should look at. I know I have said it is best if one can see the subjects eyes but the sunglasses here are appropriate and add to the image. I am sorry to disappoint, but I am going to look at the bike!
5	Terry	Burne	Rachel 5199	11	Gold	The pose of the model is great and engaging. There are creases / scars on her arms and shoulder which could be eliminated Also consider using the liquefy tool to make the elbows less protruding. A good attempt with a great subject.
5	Maxi	Holder	Under Cover	10	Gold	The models pose with her right hand not being visible does detract a bit. Using the wing to provide a diffused light works well but does cramp the subject. A crop just above her head would be advantageous.
5	Rob	Hart	Wistful Mama	11	Gold	A great image but the washed-out hair lets you down. Although it requires some effort it could be remedied by cloning some hair, using the warp tool and placing it over this area.
6	Vicki	Street	Brynn	DQ		Not a human
6	Vicki	Street	Dane and Winter	14	Merit	A really captivating image of a lovely young girl with her rabbit. Your studio portraits are superb, what more can I say?
6	Vicki	Street	Leo	DQ		Not a human.