

SCORESHEET - APR 2025 - TECHNICAL CHALLENGE -								
Cat.	Seq.	Firstname	Lastname	Star Rating	Title	SCORE	AWARD	Comment ** edits
TC	1	Marc	Gordon	1S	African Storm	9	Silver	A distinct African feel, but it appears pixelated with halos around the branches of the tree.
TC	2	Jason	Johnstone	1S	Around The Bend	11	Gold	Good story and composition - and nice leading line - it's a little grainy for my liking - I am assuming the author left this noise or grain in to add to the character of the image.
TC	3	Craig	Backhouse	1S	Boon in die pad -CB	8	Silver	While I don't mind the centred gnarly tree at all, the whole image is flat - so much more can be done with the texture and or contrast.
TC	4	Toni	Harley	1S	Braided in Blue	11	Gold	Lovely colours and sharpness, good composition, a bit more processing on the background (getting rid of the creases) would have earned you a high mark.
TC	5	Marc	Gordon	1S	Falling apart	10	Gold	Lovely colours and textures, but I do feel that the depth of field falls off too much to the right... and there is an overall yellow cast on the image, that can be corrected in post processing.
TC	6	Dylan	Evans	1S	Hand connection	9	Silver	I like the story and the simplicity of the this image - but the white robe on the left has burnt out whites, and it is just slightly off sharp - the shutter speed is 1/500, so perhaps camera shake?
TC	7	Debbie	Kleu	1S	Kosi Cottage	8	Silver	Lovely African sky and golden light, however, it is all very pixelated and not in focus - I see you used an F stop of 3.2 - for landscape, try F8, and focus a third of the way in, and see how it all stays in focus...
TC	8	Minky	Goodbrand	1S	Mother and Child.	10	Gold	This squeaks in at a low gold - such a good story, and I do like the crop - however, the child's face is slightly out of focus, and I feel that is an essential part of this story - no exif data so cannot comment further on the technical aspects...
TC	9	Marc	Gordon	1S	Moyo Piere	9	Silver	Iconic place, and very much photographed - the front part of the image, with the golden light rays and shadows is beautiful - however, the water and building start to become pixelated and soft - an aperture of F5.6 was used - I think this has contributed to the soft focus further into the the image.
TC	10	Minky	Goodbrand	1S	Noktula and Lololo.	8	Silver	While I like the story and there is excellent sharpness throughout, cutting off those feet and bottom of the legs just spoils this so much - I hope you can go back and do this again - perhaps with the lady pegging the washing and not looking at the camera - it feels a bit staged.
TC	11	Dylan	Evans	1S	Shembe leader	10	Gold	Nice sharpness and colour, a natural portrait - however, the white on the collar and the white burnt out splotches in the background need work in post processing.
TC	12	Jason	Johnstone	1S	Tangerine Dream	10	Gold	This 10 gold is for the colour, the composition and the beautiful light - you have lost points for an oval sun - I see the image is exactly 1920 x 1080 - perhaps this stretched it ???
TC	13	Minky	Goodbrand	1S	The Painted Lady.	9	Silver	Another honest portrait, but the cropping off of the hand on the right and her left arm feels weird - also you can crop a bit from the top, there is a weird bit of blue sky there...
TC	14	Jason	Johnstone	1S	Turbulence	12	Gold	An iconic race, its sharp and I like the boat heading out of the image to show speed and danger - it appears a little subdued in its colouring though...
TC	15	Dylan	Evans	1S	Weathered lines	10	Gold	Lovely face and expression, you squeak in at 10 for sharpness at 1 star level, but it's the weird crop that has let you down - I don't mind the shadows on her face, I feel they add to the story**

TC	16	Sandra	Comrie	2S	Listen to the Music	8	Silver	I like the story and his expression and passion is lovely - however so many weird things - a cellphone sticking out his back, and what looks like cloning down the left and some weird mud like stuff on the bottom right. Really well done for attempting the clone and get rid of what must have been a whole lot of busyness, but alas, it has not worked...
TC	17	Sandra	Comrie	2S	V and A Waterfront	10	Gold	I love the angle, the eye leading you into the next boat etc, however the exposure has let you down - the whites are too bright - the sharpness into the image is good, I see you used F11 - tone down the whites and add a touch of contrast, and I think this would be a really good image.
TC	18	Joan	Lindegger	3S	Golden Gate Cliffs 1	10	Gold	Very recognisable cliffs - and good sharpness and detail - to improve, lift the shadows a bit to see more texture. I am not sure about the almost square crop - I see you wanting to emphasis their beauty, but it does feel a little cramped...
TC	19	Joan	Lindegger	3S	Golden Gate Cliffs 3	8	Silver	Good sharpness, but I am not sure this works in mono at all - it does bring out the texture, but it seems to have the same shade of grey - the cliff face and the grass etc.
TC	20	Joan	Lindegger	3S	Skull in the veld	7	Silver	While I think the subject matter is relevant to this challenge, from a technical point of view, this is a bit snap-shotty. Perhaps if you had removed some of the grasses obstructing the viewer's eye, and taken the photo from a lower angle...
TC	21	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	botanical band	8	Silver	A nice enough scene that suits the topic - however the tress in the background are very bright, and the faces appear very noisy and almost blurred from the amount of noise. You don't need fancy denoising programmes - try the Photoshop camera raw filter denoising, you will have to fiddle to get it to where you want it, but its very worth the time.
TC	22	Jan	Lens	4S	Happy climber	7	Silver	A nice lively action shot, however, the whites are totally burnt out, and the face is blurry.
TC	23	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	I cant hear you 2234	12	Gold	I do love this! - its really good street art! I do wish you had lightened the lady's face a little and cropped the top so that the bland bright sky was gone - yes, it would mean cropping the top of the alien gorilla's head, but I don't think that is a problem as its not a real gorilla (or alien!) **
TC	24	Jan	Lens	4S	Koffie en beskuit	8	Silver	While I appreciate this is all African (koeksusters, tea, rusks, spices etc), when it comes to table top, less is more - there are far too many items here, and I keep on wanting to catch the cup and saucer as they are falling off the board - there is also evidence of processing inbetween the koeksusters...
TC	25	Cornelia	Appel	4S	Lunwabo	10	Gold	Lovely sharpness and soft colours - I do find the cropping a little weird, perhaps you did this so that the funky shorts could be shown, but the arms are amputated...
TC	26	wynand	lens	4S	midlands Mist	11	Gold	Love this! Lovely moody image, I like the horns that are silhouetted, and I can see some detail in the front cow - watch the sun though, its very very bright.
TC	27	JOAN	JUNG	4S	Mistylake	10	Gold	I love the overgrown story here - and while I appreciate the naturalness of this image, the colours do appear a little muted.
TC	28	wynand	lens	4S	No money to send home	13	Merit	Excellent, such a good moment caught in time... great colour, only gripe - lighten the man's face a bit...
TC	29	JOAN	JUNG	4S	Overgrown desolation	9	Silver	I do like this story, but it appears a little pixellated all the way through the image - perhaps you cropped in from a larger image ?? Its taken at F9, so the depth of field should be good - perhaps a little contrast or levels in Photoshop, to add a little pop to the building. **
TC	30	Meleney	Naik	4S	Pomene Vendor	9	Silver	I like the PJ feel to this, the colours and the lovely smile - but it needs some cropping. Crop the left to just where this chap's stall starts - he is then on the thirds, and that bright light on the left is cropped out, so your eye then goes to his face, where the story is. **

TC	31	Meleney	Naik	4S	Pomene View	9	Silver	Gorgeous sky and ocean in the background - the centralised tree worries me, but I do see if you put it on the thirds, you would have to crop off that lovely derelict building - so a conundrum. Perhaps darken the foreground, to bring out the textures a little...
TC	32	Cornelia	Appel	4S	Princess in Blue	10	Gold	A nice candid portrait - watch the shiny bits on the nose, and not sure about that hand tucked under the elbow - it looks a little awkward - perhaps it could be below the elbow, supporting the elbow ?? Lovely colour and love the background.
TC	33	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	purple is good	10	Gold	Iconic houses, and lovely colour. Perhaps lift the shadows in the trees a bit, on a sunny day at 10.30 when this image was taken, the light starts to really deepen shadows and flatten out the colour... and the road does not add to the story, crop off a bit at the bottom. **
TC	34	Meleney	Naik	4S	Selling Coconuts	9	Silver	A nice African image, but so much brightness in the sand or the products on the sand behind the sellers. Not sure about the portrait presentation either - while I see why you would want to include the palm trees for a sense of location, I would prefer a horizontal presentation, to see more of the sellers wares...
TC	35	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Smiling musician 7804	9	Silver	A very happy chap! I think the mono is just a little too grey for me - perhaps its that white background that just adds nothing to the story - I know it would mean a huge amount of work in photoshop, but I think changing up the background would add so much punch to this image... the musician is also very central and i think a bit of cropping would help here...
TC	36	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Smoky Bushveld Morning 6296	12	Gold	Love this, the graininess adds to the smokey feel - blur of the lights is perfect - very true to the African challenge, a really creative entry.
TC	37	wynand	lens	4S	Southcoast Surfing	11	Gold	So my first reaction was - showing surfing in mono with no golden beach and blue water, so weird! BUT the surfer mono conversion is super! Perhaps some sea not just foam in the image to improve, but appreciate you may have had to crop out distractions...
TC	38	JOAN	JUNG	4S	Sunrise in the mist	9	Silver	Lovely colours and a feeling of the cold creeping in - however I have figured out those are cows on the horizon, but they could also be blocks of cement. If a few had raised their heads to get that cow head silhouette that would be perfect. And yes, I am very aware that you cannot order them to do that!
TC	39	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	waste treasure	8	Silver	Such an African story, but you have lost points for the technical stuff - quite a few bright areas blown out. And I think you got the crop a little wrong... **
TC	40	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Adventuring	9	Silver	Fantasticidea, and a typical African scene. The Africa blue sky, that 4x4... wonderful. But there is a flatness to this image - the grass seems a little too yellow, and the 4x4, which looks like it has such lovely mud on it, is lost in the shadows... I did try to get detail back on the vehicle, but perhaps because its a jpeg, i just couldnt.
TC	41	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Hut window	9	Silver	Nice image, nice textures and colour, but this could be anywhere in the world...
TC	42	Heidi	Taylor	5S0	Three smiles	10	Gold	Lovely smiles and colours - nice sharpness and lucky you, a background with no distractions. However, the skin appears a bit yellow and the light at 11am is not great, and that has impacted your shadows and midtones.
TC	43	Maxi	Holder	5S1	Augrabies Falls Late Afternoon	10	Gold	Nice slow shutter on the waterfall - the colours are lovely and natural.
TC	44	Maxi	Holder	5S1	Himba Woman	9	Silver	Such a lovely story here, but so pixelated you have lost points. Such a pity. I also think the square crop portray the forward movement of the donkey **
TC	45	Maxi	Holder	5S1	In One Hundred Metres Turn Left	10	Gold	Is that the back of a bakkie, now been pulled by donkeys? Only in Africa! So you squeak in at a gold for the story and typical African scene - there is evidence of processing on his white hat.

TC	46	Tracey	Rhodes	5S1	Seaside worship	10	Gold	Love the grey turbulent water! This is very African, and the colours are fabulous. I appreciate that you probably had to crop the left for something distracting, but I think the composition is now a little wrong. Full manipulation allowed, so you could clone some of the image using Photoshop content aware or the cloning tool... **
TC	47	Tracey	Rhodes	5S1	Sweet Granadilla	10	Gold	Another squeak at a gold - I like the centredness, and I see why you left the lovely rich colours and folds in the image. But that wet spot is not great - but then pulp is wet, so I don't have an answer for that sorry.
TC	48	Ronelle	van den Heever	5S3	African Padstal	12	Gold	Wonderful image. Love the close crop, the story, and bonus, the one chap looking at the camera. Well done.
TC	49	Ronelle	van den Heever	5S3	African trading	9	Silver	Whites handled well, I do think the gate post is a little obstructive to the eye, and it appears slightly pixellated overall.
TC	50	Des	van Tonder	5S3	Afternoon thunderstorms	9	Silver	I feel that these clouds could be anywhere - and my eye is looking around this picture for a point of interest - there are some hills at the bottom, and clouds in the sky, but nothing that really piques my interest.
TC	51	Des	van Tonder	5S3	Dusi 2025 K2	9	Silver	The large aperture used (F6.3) has resulted in a shallow depth of field, which means whilst the pair of paddlers in the front boat are nice and sharp - the paddlers in the 2 boats behind them are not sharp but provide quite a strong distraction from the main subject. I also feel that without any details of the surrounding area, this picture could be taken anywhere in the world as there is nothing specifically "African" visible.
TC	52	Ronelle	van den Heever	5S3	Homegrown architecture	9	Silver	Such a typical scene, well spotted. However, the 2 fence posts in the foreground, while blurry, detract too much - you could spend a lot of time editing them out, if you are retired and it's a rainy day??
TC	53	Des	van Tonder	5S3	Soccer Icon	9	Silver	The Moses Mabida stadium is indeed an iconic structure in Durban, and as such fulfills the remit of Our Africa - however I feel that there is too much of the sea at the bottom of the picture that adds nothing to the story. I feel that half of the area below the pier could be cropped out. The sky in the background is also a little flat and uninteresting.
TC	54	Rob	Hart	5S4	Duzi duo	11	Gold	Fantastic in your face, full frame image. Colours are good, sharp throughout, however, not sure if its oversharpened or too much clarity and texture have been added? Its on the brink of too much.
TC	55	Rob	Hart	5S4	Duzi marathon epic thru valley of 1000 hills	9	Silver	While I think this image is perfect for Our Africa, there are some technicalities - the houses are all sliding to the right, there is a photographer in blue on the edge of the right border, the image especially the front section of water and canoeists, appears over sharpened or too much clarity added. The spectators on the right edge of the river could be cloned out too. **
TC	56	Rob	Hart	5S4	Duzi spirit - canoe lost but life saved	9	Silver	A nice PJ image, but if you don't know it's the Dusi, you lose the Our Africa bit...
TC	57	Leon	Heyes	6S1	An Exciting Day	9	Silver	A lovely rural scene with lovely colours - however, the train seems to be sliding to the left - when I use guidelines in Photoshop, there is a definite tilt to the whole image.
TC	58	Leon	Heyes	6S1	Beer Pots	12	Gold	Wonderful image, the brown pots a lovely focal point against the grey pots. Good sharpness throughout.
TC	59	Leon	Heyes	6S1	Family Wash Day	12	Gold	Fabulous scene, so typical, lovely colours, good sharpness. I see the house in the background is built skew, but again there is a feeling of tilting to the right - if I take this into Photoshop and tilt very slightly to the left so the trees are upright, it seems to settle the image. But a lovely image.**
TC		Jason	Johnstone	1S	Turbulence	12	Best Junior	
TC		wynand	lens	4S	No money to send home	13	Best Senior	