

Entries\_for\_AUG\_2025\_TECH\_CHALLENGE - LOW KEY

CAT	Category Name	SEQ	Firstname	Lastname	STAR	Title	INTREF	SCORE	AWARD	COMMENTS
	<b>General Comment from the Judge</b>									I did not judge quite a few images, as I felt they did not qualify as low key images. I do not know how strict you are at your club, and if you think I have been too strict, please let me know, and I will reconsider. I feel that it doesn't help anybody if one just lets things slide, and club members won't realise that they did not understand the prescribed guidelines in such a case.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	1	Lesley	Marchant	1S	Alas poor Yorick	2693188	11	Gold	Focus is very good, and the image has impact. Lighting is good, but a little harsh in places - perhaps a more diffused lighting setup can be considered in the future, if the surface of the subject is reflective. Composition is well considered with good proportions. Black and white is a great option for this image. I would recommend a thin border in grey to distinguish the image from the background.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	2	Lesley	Marchant	1S	Black Sabbath	2693186	9	Silver	The lighting on the ears of the dog makes for an interesting subject and the stare of the dog provides impact. The contrast in this image is not provided by lighting, as is required with low key photography, but by the colouring of the dog, and as such it is not really low key. The image could also have been improved by some kind of light behind the dog to separate the dog from the background.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	3	Lesley	Marchant	1S	Curly Cussonia	2693183	9	Silver	Interesting photo and a creative angle. The leaves reaching to the corners adds additional complexity. Focus is good, but lighting doesn't strictly put it in the low key category. If the author had used spot metering to expose just for the plant and if the plant was maybe catching a ray of sunlight, the background would have been much darker, even black, which would have been a low key photo.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	4	Jay	Nabbe	1S	Eyes that have seen	2694492	11	Gold	This image has great impact. Focus is sharp. Lighting is well handled, with good contrast, dark tones and shadows. The reflection on the car door is distracting. The image could be improved by cropping it at the left and bottom, above the reflection. That would focus the viewer's attention on the child's expression. Well spotted.

TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	5	Jay	Nabbe	1S	Live music this way	2694501	10	Gold	Great concept with the sign pointing to the "live music". Focus, lighting and composition is well handled. The bright white light (top middle) is distracting though, and could be cloned out, or alternatively the image could be cropped slightly tighter to exclude the light. A thin border would also help to show where the image begins and where it ends.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	6	Jay	Nabbe	1S	Vertigo	2694499	11	Gold	The hand on the railing makes this image successful and provides intrigue. A tighter crop on the left could further improve the image by using the railing as a natural frame, resulting in more of a square crop, as the far left does not add anything to the photo. Lighting and focus is good, with the hand which is the focus of the image, well lit, and supplying the necessary contrast for a low key photo.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	7	Marc	Gordon	2S	A burst of green	2695620	10	Gold	The colour, lighting and subject make this an interesting and impactful photo. The shallow depth of field is great, giving it dimension, however the eye struggles to find something that is in focus. There are dark tones and shadows, with enough contrast to make this a successful low key photo.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	8	Minky	Goodbrand	2S	Bunch of Bristle grass	2694810	Not judged	DQ	The background and lighting of this image excludes it from the definition of low key.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	9	Minky	Goodbrand	2S	Early Bird	2694806	Not judged	DQ	A low key photo should be predominantly dark (black) with lots of shadows and only a few areas that are brightly lit. This image does not fit that description.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	10	Nyasha	Godoka	2S	Juice in Boots	2695617	10	Gold	Interesting subject with good focus and lighting. The light spot highlights texture to add complexity. Consider placement of lighting to bring light spot beneath boot for greater impact and composition.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	11	Marc	Gordon	2S	Leaves at night	2695612	14	Merit	Close to flawless execution. The colours create interest and impact, while the shallow depth of field is well balanced and the composition guides the eye. A great example of low key photography.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	12	Minky	Goodbrand	2S	My Sculpture looks	2694809	DQ	DQ	Artistic concept with good textures on the sculpture. Execution of the eye could be better in the editing. Suggest a slightly wider crop and smaller, less prominent eye. The animal print in the bottom left is distracting, and it would have been better if that area was black. This image is not low key. There are hardly any dark shadows, and no black background is visible

TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	13	Marc	Gordon	2S	Pennywise	2695608	13	Merit	A fun choice with impact. Light spots on face slightly distract and subject lacks emotion. The tilted head of the model is pleasing and the composition is good. Good example of low key photography, with a dark background and light on the subject. In this case, with the black background, a thin border would be recommended.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	14	Nyasha	Godoka	2S	Swan Lake	2695618	12	Gold	The considered cropping to include the full neck reflection in the water lends to the excellent composition of this image. The details of the feathers and the ripples in the water give texture and depth to the image. All the elements of low key photography are present.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	15	Nyasha	Godoka	2S	Thank ya Thank ya very much	2695616	13	Merit	Fun and impactful photo with wonderful detail on the subject. Focus is good and you can almost feel the wind blowing as you look at the image. The background is suitably dark with light on the subject. Well done.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	16	Magda	Bezuidenhout	3S	Lady in waiting	2695697	12	Gold	The lighting is exceptional. The balance of light and dark is great. Skin tone variations suggests editing was done, but not effectively corrected. A thin border is recommended. Great portrait.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	17	Magda	Bezuidenhout	3S	waiting for a miracle	2695698	13	Merit	Fantastic lighting. Good composition and perfect focus. Black and white is a great choice for this image. A thin border is recommended. Great low key photo.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	18	Mags	Vosloo	4S	Dance of the White Swan	2695625	Not judged	DQ	The background is black, but too much of the subject is brightly lit to qualify as low key.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	19	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	dark flower	2695542	13	Merit	Lighting and composition give this image a fiery feel and high impact. The colours are well balanced and considered. I do recommend a thin border to distinguish the photo from the background.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	20	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Fisherman wood carving	2695539	7	Silver	Very harsh lighting. Composition is considered and the focus is good, but the harsh lighting detracts.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	21	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	hurry up its cold	2695544	Not judged	DQ	The background and lighting of this image excludes it from the definition of low key.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	22	Mags	Vosloo	4S	In the Moment	2695627	Not judged	DQ	The background is black, but too much of the subject is brightly lit to qualify as low key.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	23	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4S	light in the centre	2695543	10	Gold	Subject is in focus with good levels of detail. The light on the leaves in the centre is a bit too bright and seems blown out. It does qualify as low key with the dark background. Composition is also fine.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	24	wynand	lens	4S	Light my fire	2690191	Not judged	DQ	Bright lighting on the subject of this image excludes it from the definition of low key.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	25	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Mag Wheel Spokes	2695540	10	Gold	Interesting composition and lighting. Focus is sharp. The angle from which this photo was taken, adds an element of mystery, and it almost looks like something from outer space.

TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	26	wynand	lens	4S	Sardine Run	2690211	Not judged	DQ	The background and lighting of this image excludes it from the definition of low key.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	27	wynand	lens	4S	Sunrise Fishing	2690192	Not judged	DQ	A silhouette can be low key, but in this case the background is very bright and colourful, which excludes it from the definition of low key photography, even though it is a great photo. If rimlight was used to show a silhouette, that would have qualified as a low key image.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	28	Doug	Couperthwaite	4S	Sunrise on Pine Bark	2695541	9	Silver	In focus and interesting lighting. The repeating sun on the trees is good, but the image is unbalanced with a little too much light on the ground. If perhaps the image was cropped to just show the tree, it could have improved the low key image.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	29	Mags	Vosloo	4S	Vivacious	2695626	Not judged	DQ	Even though the background is black, there is too much light on the subject to qualify as low key.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	30	Jan	Lens	5S1	afternoon shades	2689053	8	Silver	Interesting concept, lacking execution. The floating heel distracts. Attention to subject details and post processing could be improved.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	31	Jan	Lens	5S1	Cave cheff	2689047	9	Silver	Borders on low-light photography, undertit or under exposed. Lit rock / cave ceiling detracts. More light on the subject with more contrast, would improve the image. A thin border is also recommended.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	32	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	craspedia globosa	2695378	12	Gold	The curve of the vase and the lighting thereof is good and interesting. The highlight on the back end of the bottle shows the complexity of the lighting design. The details on the flowers is impressive, considering the light levels. The image looks like a painting from a master. The choice of colours is smart - the contrasting yellow and dark blue work very well together. Very well done.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	33	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	forgotten poppies	2695376	10	Gold	The soft lighting on the poppies works for the image. The reflection on the container, however, draws the eyes immediately and distracts from the poppies, which should be the focus point. The composition is good, and focus is sharp. The blues and greens work well together to make a pleasing low key image.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	34	JOAN	JUNG	5S1	guitar	2695377	11	Gold	The composition guides your eye to the details on the guitar. Lighting is soft and focus is good. I wonder if the guitar neck was more at an angle, whether it wouldn't have made a more interesting image. Good low light image with all the right elements present.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	35	Jan	Lens	5S1	Hidden rose	2689048	9	Silver	Good concept, but not enough contrast. Falls more into the category of low-light photography with visible details in the background. The chain is distracting and can be cropped off, or cloned out. The photo could be improved further by cloning out small imperfections.

TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	36	Terry	Burne	5S2	Early morning dew on the grass - 6906-2	2695577	12	Gold	The shallow depth of field greatly adds value to the image. The droplets act as little lens balls, giving context to the wider scene. Interesting crop and composition.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	37	Maxi	Holder	5S2	Eight Minutes Past One	2695465	11	Gold	The reflection makes this a more interesting and impactful photo. Focus, lighting, and composition is good. There are a few dust spots that can be cleaned up, to improve the photo, and perhaps a little more light on the watch could make it more low key and less low-light.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	38	Maxi	Holder	5S2	Quiet Contemplation	2695463	12	Gold	Very moody and contrast is great. The reflection and pop of red colour adds to the image. The symmetrical crop works well. Here is an excellent example of how a thin border can enhance an image, by continuing the red of the flower in the border.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	39	Maxi	Holder	5S2	Scary News On TV	2695464	8	Silver	This is a dark photo of a dark object, but that does not make it a low key photo. The dog's whole face is evenly lit and it fills the whole frame.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	40	Rob	Hart	5S4	Low key orb spider	2695657	11	Gold	Great detail and low key. A spider is an excellent choice for low key, as the darkness and high contrast adds to the atmosphere. Composition is also pleasing to the eye.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	41	Rob	Hart	5S4	Low key toad	2695656	12	Gold	Not quite what low key photography asks for, with the whole frame filled by the well lit frog. Contrast is good and level of detail adds to the texture. Focus is very sharp and the diagonal composition works well.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	42	Rob	Hart	5S4	Oreo in low key	2695659	8	Silver	This is not a low key photo, just low light. The subject is black and the lighter part of the cat is not lighter because of specific lighting, but because that is the colour of the cat.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	43	Leon	Heyes	6S1	Blueberries	2689041	Not judged	DQ	This image does not qualify as a low key photo, because even though it is low light, the main part of the photo is lighter than the blueberries, which is the subject of the photo.
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	44	Leon	Heyes	6S1	Day Lily	2679605	14	Merit	This is an exceptional photo, the gold standard for low-key photography. It has all the right elements, striking contrasts, dark tones and shadows, and the centre of the flower is brightly lit. Well done!
TC	Technical Challenge - Low Key	45	Leon	Heyes	6S1	Lorraine in Low Key	2679606	12	Gold	This is an excellent example of a low key portrait, with a black background, striking contrasts, dark tones and shadows with part of the face well lit. Focus is good, composition as well and the rim light adds that extra element to the image.
	Best Junior	11	Marc	Gordon	2S	Leaves at night	2695612	14	BJUNIOR	
	Best Senior	44	Leon	Heyes	6S1	Day Lily	2679605	14	BSENIOR	