



National
Qualifications
2023

2023 Photography

Higher

Finalised Marking Instructions

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General marking principles for Higher Photography

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

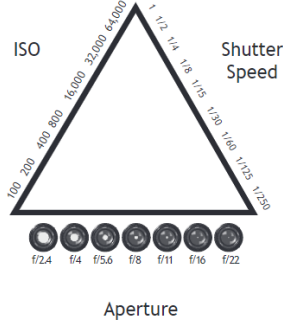
- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (c) Consider the extent to which the candidate's response:
 - answers the specifics of the question
 - demonstrates knowledge and understanding of photography.
- (d) In Section 2 full marks are available whether responses are provided in continuous prose, linked statements or a series of developed points.
- (e) Do not award marks for mere descriptive comment. To gain marks, candidates must develop and justify their points. Only award marks for a valid response to the question asked. For example, in response to questions that ask candidates to:
 - **identify** – they must give the name required (for example a specific camera control, technique, effect)
 - **explain** – they must apply their knowledge and understanding of light and image formation, camera controls, image-making techniques and their effects to relate **cause** and **effect** and/or make relationships between things clear
 - **discuss** – they must apply their knowledge and understanding of image-making techniques, and their effects, to communicate ideas and information about the photographer's technical and creative decisions; they must draw valid conclusions and give explanations supported by **justification**.
- (f) To gain full marks, candidates must respond to all aspects of the question.
- (g) Do not award marks for repetition of points that the candidate has not developed further in any way.

Marking instructions for each question

SECTION 1 – MULTIPLE CHOICE

If a candidate has selected more than one option in response to a question, do not award a mark.

Do not award a mark if it is unclear which option the candidate has selected.

Question	Answer	Max mark
1.		1
2.	Auto-bracketing	1
3.		1
4.	Increase the ISO number	1
5.		1
6.	Tonal range	1
7.	Cloudy	1
8.	Softened	1
9.	Telephoto	1
10.	Raised the EV number to +2 – Increased the contrast	1

SECTION 2 – ANALYSIS

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
11.	(a)		Shutter Speed A fast shutter speed has been used to freeze the movement of the water/ exploding mug. ISO A high ISO setting has been used to balance the exposure because the photographer has used a fast shutter speed to capture the cup breaking. Pre-set Mode A pre-set sport mode has been used to create a fast shutter speed to freeze the movement of the exploding mug.	2	Award 1 mark for the correct identification of a specific camera control. Award 1 mark for a correct explanation. The column on the left outlines examples of what would gain a mark. Any other valid explanation relating to the use of an appropriate camera control.
11.	(b)		A tripod may have been used to pre-compose the shot to allow the photographer to drop the cup into the centre of the frame at the same time as taking the photo. A reflector has been used to lighten the shadows within the scene. This allows the cup to stand out from the black background. A single studio light/off camera flash was used from the left-hand side to illuminate the flower, mug and water whilst leaving the background in darkness. A remote shutter release may have been used so that the photographer can be closer to the still life to drop the cup while taking the image. A remote shutter release may have been used so that the photographer can be further away from the camera/ scene for safety reasons because of breaking the cup. A diffuser may have been used to soften the light across the fragments of broken cup, creating soft shadows. A black backdrop may have been used to make the lighter objects stand out against the dark.	3	Award 1 mark for each correct identification and explanation of appropriate equipment, up to a maximum of 3 marks. The column on the left outlines examples of what would gain a mark. Any other valid explanations relating to the appropriate use of equipment.

Question		Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
	(c)	The camera is positioned lower so that the action of the splashing water appears larger to the viewer. The image has been cropped tightly to the subject, emphasising the explosion. The pink flower is the centre of interest as it is the only use of colour within the scene, which draws the viewer's eye to it. The line created by the water takes the viewer's eye from the flower across the image encouraging them to follow the movement within the scene. Triangular composition has been used. The viewer's attention is drawn from the flower, up to the water, across to the shattered fragments. Allowing the viewer to take in the whole scene. The scale of the small shards contrast with the large wave, which creates a sense of power within the image. The photographer has used rule of thirds, as the flower sits on the left-hand intersection, drawing the viewer's attention to the left.	3	Award 1 mark for each correct identification and explanation of a compositional technique, up to a maximum of 3 marks. The column on the left outlines examples of what would gain a mark. Any other valid explanations relating to compositional techniques.
	(d)	The strong lighting on the cup and flower highlights the action within the foreground making the image appear dramatic. The organic shape of the petals contrast with the angular shapes of the broken cup creating an unsettling atmosphere. The many shards of the exploding cup, create a sense of chaos and destruction. A sad mood has been suggested as the cup has exploded, leaving the flower without water to survive. The force used to shatter the cup conveys a violent atmosphere.	2	Award 1 mark for each correct explanation of mood and atmosphere, up to a maximum of 2 marks. The column on the left outlines examples of what would gain a mark. Any other valid explanations relating to mood and atmosphere.

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
12.			A large aperture/low f-number has been selected to create a shallow depth of field. This draws the viewer's attention to the plate of food on the table in the foreground, allowing the viewer to follow the narrative. The photographer has used a fast shutter speed to freeze the movement of the steam from the freshly prepared meal. This gives the impression that dinner has just been served to us at the table. The photographer has used a daylight white balance setting as the light source could be daylight coming from a window on the right-hand side. This makes the bowls and plates on the table appear true to life as the photographer saw it. The photographer could have used a standard lens to replicate the human field of vision. This allows the viewer to feel as though they are sitting at the table, waiting to eat. The photographer has selected a low ISO setting, which can be seen as there is no noise/ grain in the shadow to the right-hand side of the cooker. This creates a rich, black shadow that frames the man in the background. The photographer could have used portrait pre-set mode to capture the action quickly, before the man turned around. This created a candid record of that moment. Diffused/natural light is entering the scene from the right. This casts soft shadows on the table, which establishes a natural aesthetic creating a comfortable environment/homely atmosphere. The viewer is sitting at an old-fashioned kitchen table, waiting for an older relative to join them, which is a familiar scene. This evokes a nostalgic feeling of being a child in a loving home. This is a candid shot as the man is in the background preparing dinner. He is not paying attention to the photographer, suggesting this is a snapshot of an everyday moment.	10	Award 1 mark for each justified point discussing the photographer's technical and creative decisions, up to a maximum of 10 marks. Responses must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of image-making techniques and their effects. Do not award marks for descriptive or generic comments of camera controls or creative effects. The column on the left outlines examples of points which would gain marks. Any other valid justified points discussing the photographer's technical and creative decisions.

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
			The blue on the wall and the earthy tones on the table create a sense of nostalgia as they are muted. This could evoke similar memories in the viewer reminding them of visiting their own grandparents. By choosing the informal kitchen location, which is the heart of the home, the photographer depicts a welcoming/relaxed atmosphere. This puts the viewer at ease/provides a sense of comfort. The rough texture of the worn placemat suggests that this is one of many meals served at that table. This gives the impression that it has been well used and familiar, providing a sense of contentment. The cutlery and teapot on the table create leading lines, which direct the viewer from the foreground to the background. This enables the viewer to notice the man and gives him a role in the narrative. Repetition of circular shapes of the plates and bowls on the table create rhythm and fluidity. This draws the viewer's eye towards the man preparing dinner in background. In the foreground, warm, earthy colours are used. This helps show the warmth and comfort that comes from family meals. However, as the viewer's eye moves to the background, the colours become cooler, reflecting the loneliness of the older person.		

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]