

KCCPG Competition Guidance Notes 2024-25

Our competitions are meant to be fun, as well as a way of improving your photography; the judges' critiques are usually helpful in highlighting faults in images, as well as praising the good features. That way we can all learn from our "mistakes".

Before considering our subjects for the 2024-25 season, here are a few things to keep in mind.

When looking at your image the judge's first impression is really what matters. He or she will probably have seen hundreds of images on that particular subject, so will be attracted to something different. The longer they spend looking at your image, the better. They will of course be considering the composition, how well the image relates to the subject, does it "tell a story?" And equally important - are basic things like exposure, focus, etc. all OK? Also, it's a good idea to check that there are no distracting elements around the edges that could be adjusted or removed – the judge will be looking for reasons to deduct marks and will spot what you might have missed yourself!

And use your imagination – an unusual viewpoint, or perspective that might make your image stand out from the others will always attract the judge's attention.

A narrow catch-line around a pdi image is often helpful, particularly when the image is dark. But don't make it too thick (maybe just a few pixels wide) and if possible don't make it pure white.

And finally – the judging will be subjective – where one judge awards a full score of 20, another might miss the point completely and mark it well down!

And now for the subjects.

ICM (Intentional Camera Movement). This is where your camera is deliberately moved during a long exposure (e.g. several seconds) to produce an ethereal, abstract image. Panning is one example of this, as are trees or buildings blurred vertically, for instance. You might want to use a neutral density (ND) filter, a smaller aperture (e.g. f16) and/or a low iso setting for this to work well. Also, if your camera or lens has image stabilization, it should if possible be switched off. There's a very helpful website on **Petapixel.com** which you can find by Googling ICM. Scroll down past sites like the "International Confederation of Midwives" (!), various financial sites, and you will find it. It is a very useful resource.

In the City. This is your chance to do something different in an urban environment. You can include buildings, street scenes, people doing things – shopping, busking, queuing, etc. But please be very cautious if any children might be included in your images.

Letter "L". For this your image should convey "L" to the viewer. This could be an object such as a lamp, or something shaped like that letter. Plenty of scope for your imagination here. Just remember, the judge must see the connection between your image and "L".

Colour Purple. The main elements in your image should be purple, or contain that colour so that, again, the judge will see the connection.

Close up / Macro. Close-up or macro images can reveal an amazing world. Many modern cameras and phones have good "macro" or "micro" settings, so this is your opportunity to explore the world of small things, and present some exciting images that you might otherwise miss.

Water. Endless scope here, so long as the viewer relates what he/she sees to "water". As elsewhere, try to avoid the obvious.