

# Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component – Higher Photography question paper.

## Candidate 1

The candidate was awarded a total of **25/30 marks**.

### Section 1: multiple choice

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** for this section. Marks were awarded as follows:

- Question 1 – **1 mark**
- Question 2 – **1 mark**
- Question 3 – **0 marks**
- Question 4 – **0 marks**
- Question 5 – **1 mark**
- Question 6 – **1 mark**
- Question 7 – **1 mark**
- Question 8 – **1 mark**
- Question 9 – **1 mark**
- Question 10 – **1 mark**

### Section 2: analysis

The candidate was awarded **17 marks** for this section.

#### Question 11(a)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this question.

The candidate has identified shutter speed as an appropriate camera control used to capture the image. **(1 mark)**

The candidate has correctly explained the relationship between a fast shutter speed and the fast-moving water which has been captured with no motion blur. **(1 mark)**

*Note: Had the candidate only explained that the water had been 'captured', this would not have been enough to attract a mark as captured could mean frozen, or with motion blur.*

#### Question 11(b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this question.

The candidate has correctly identified the use of a black backdrop as an appropriate piece of equipment used by the photographer. They explain the effect created showing appropriate knowledge and understanding. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies the use of a tripod, which is an acceptable piece of equipment. However, the explanation is incorrect for this image. The candidate explains that the tripod was used to ensure there was no motion blur. This is incorrect. The photographer may have used a tripod to pre-compose the shot, to allow him to stand back for safety reasons, away from the breaking object. A fast shutter speed would not show motion blur. **(0 marks)**

The candidate correctly identifies the use of studio lights. They explain that only the objects are illuminated, and the background is dark. They justify the natural light was not used by explaining the effect that would be seen. **(1 marks)**

### Question 11(c)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for this question.

The candidate has identified rule of thirds as a valid compositional technique used by the photographer. They explain that water has been captured on a rule of thirds line and expand their response by explaining the effect on. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies leading lines and describe where these are within the image. They explain the effect on the viewer. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies balance as the third compositional technique. They describe where they see this within the image and explain how this creates a full and balanced image. **(1 mark)**

*Their comment relating to the photographer's use of colour was not necessary to achieve the mark.*

### Question 11(d)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this question.

The candidate makes a connection between specific subject matter with the mood and atmosphere communicated. They justify this by explaining the contrast created in the choice of subject matter and the narrative this suggests. **(1 mark)**

The candidate discusses the effect of the flying shards on the mood and atmosphere created. **(1 mark)**

### Question 12

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies the photographer's use of a low f-stop aperture, justified by an explanation of where the shallow depth of field can be seen in this image. They discuss the effect, explaining the narrative it communicates. **(1 mark)**

The candidate has recognised the photographer's use of a low viewpoint, explaining that the viewer's eyelevel is just above the food. They discuss the effect this has on the viewer **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies that the photographer has used a fast shutter speed to capture the scene, justified by explaining that the steam from the food would have been moving quickly. They discuss how the effect communicates the temperature of the food. **(1 mark)**

The candidate discusses the effect of the format on the image and why they think it was used **(1 mark)**

The candidate discusses features of the location and what these communicate in terms of symbolism. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies the food as the focal point of the scene and explains how this is achieved. They discuss the effect. However, the candidate has already made these same points when discussing aperture at the beginning of the response. No mark can be awarded for repetition. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies specific features of the subject matter and discusses the effect on the mood and narrative communicated. **(1 mark)**

The candidate discusses the lighting as being 'naturally used'. However, they do not give a convincing explanation of why the specific features mentioned are particular to natural lighting. The meaning of the shadows and reflections not being 'defined or softened' is unclear. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies that the photographer has used a low ISO. Although they make a connection between brightness and ISO setting, their comment is general and not fully developed. It does not show appropriate knowledge and understanding of low ISO and how it has affected this specific image, for example the lack of visible noise or grain. **(0 marks)**

The candidate describes the use of colour within the image. They discuss the effect by explaining the mood created. **(1 mark)**

The candidate discusses how the lighting effect contributes to the mood and narrative. **(1 mark)**

## Candidate 2

The candidate was awarded **9/30 marks**.

### Section 1: multiple choice

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** for this section. Marks were awarded as follows:

Question 1 – **0 marks**

Question 2 – **1 mark**

Question 3 – **1 mark**

Question 4 – **1 mark**

Question 5 – **1 mark**

Question 6 – **1 mark**

Question 7 – **0 marks**

Question 8 – **1 mark**

Question 9 – **0 marks**

Question 10 – **0 marks**

### Section 2: analysis

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for this section.

#### Question 11(a)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this question.

The candidate has identified shutter speed as an appropriate camera control used by the photographer to capture the image. **(1 mark)**

The candidate gives an explanation that shows appropriate knowledge and understanding of how shutter speed was used to create the image. **(1 mark)**

#### Question 11(b)

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies a tripod as a piece of equipment used by the photographer. They refer to camera shake and freezing the breaking of the mug. However, these are a result of a fast shutter speed, not the use of a tripod. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies the use of studio lighting to light the scene. However, their explanation is vague and does not explain the effect on this image. More detail is needed. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies the use of a reflector. However, they only provide a generic explanation of the effect of a reflector, with no specific reference to the image. **(0 marks)**

#### Question 11(c)

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies the use of triangular composition within the image. They provide a basic understanding of the purpose of this technique. However, the explanation lacks specific detail that shows appropriate knowledge and understanding. **(0 marks)**

The candidate refers to the use of negative space within the image. However, the explanation lacks specific reference to elements of the image, for example what the focal point is. **(0 marks)**

The candidate then identifies the use of a central composition. However, the explanation is not fully developed and further reference to the image and how the focal point is created is required. **(0 marks)**

### **Question 11(d)**

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for this question.

The candidate identifies the contrast created by the colour of the subject matter and states that this contributes to mood and atmosphere. However, they do not explain what the mood and atmosphere is created. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies the frozen movement of the shattering mug and the dramatic light and explains how these contribute to mood and atmosphere. **(1 mark)**

### **Question 12**

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies the use of a central composition and notes that it draws attention to the focal point. However, it is not clear what the focal point is, and the candidate has not justified the impact of this decision. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies a high f-number and provides an explanation of what this means. However, there is no reference to the image, or the impact of this camera control on the image or the viewer. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies the use of a fast shutter speed, but their explanation lacks demonstration of knowledge and understanding of the effect of using a fast shutter speed. For instance, as the objects on the table are still, they could have also been captured with a slow shutter speed. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies the use of a daylight white balance setting and links this to the warm and natural colours in the scene. The comment is descriptive and does not demonstrate knowledge and understanding of why the photographer may have chosen this setting. **(0 marks)**

The candidate states that studio lighting could have been used, as the lighting looks intentional and unnatural. However, the justification of the potential use of

studio light does not demonstrate knowledge and understanding of light sources and their effects. **(0 marks)**

The candidate states that a tripod has been used and explains that this would ensure no camera shake. This is a generic comment that has not been justified or linked to the image. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies a high ISO setting and links this to low light conditions within the scene. However, the comment lacks demonstrated understanding of how this may have impacted the scene. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies that dramatic lighting creates atmosphere within the scene and provides examples of where shadows can be seen. However, the comment is confused and does not clearly identify what atmosphere is created, or how the lighting and shadows contribute to this. **(0 marks)**

The candidate comments on the use of natural lighting within the scene. They state that the lighting in some areas does not look artificial but they do not justify this comment. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies an eye-level viewpoint and explains that this draws the viewer into the image and makes the viewer feel as though they are part of it. However, this statement does not reference the image and could apply many images taken from the same viewpoint. **(0 marks)**

## Candidate 3

The candidate was awarded **23/30 marks**.

### Section 1: multiple choice

The candidate was awarded **9 marks** for this section. Marks were awarded as follows:

Question 1 – **1 mark**  
Question 2 – **1 mark**  
Question 3 – **1 mark**  
Question 4 – **1 mark**  
Question 5 – **1 mark**  
Question 6 – **1 mark**  
Question 7 – **1 mark**  
Question 8 – **1 mark**  
Question 9 – **1 mark**  
Question 10 – **0 marks**

### Section 2: analysis

The candidate was awarded **14 marks** for this section.

#### Question 11(a)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this question.

The candidate has identified shutter speed as an appropriate camera control used to capture this image. **(1 mark)**

The candidate gives an explanation that shows appropriate knowledge and understanding of how shutter speed was used to minimise motion blur in the image. **(1 mark)**

#### Question 11(b)

The candidate was awarded **0 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies a tripod as a piece of equipment used when taking the image. The candidate gives a general reason for the use of a tripod. There is no specific reference to the image or explanation as to why the tripod was needed. The effects in the image are a result of a fast shutter speed, so a tripod would not be needed to prevent camera shake. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies a shutter button. It is clear from their explanation that they are referring to a remote shutter release. They explain that this would eliminate the potential of camera shake, but as this image was taken with a fast shutter speed, this is not an issue. However, if they had explained that it would allow the photographer to stand further back from the flying shards, this would be a valid point. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies a diffuser. However, the explanation is generic and does not explain how this piece of equipment impacts on this specific image. **(0 marks)**

### Question 11(c)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies that the scene is centre dominant, and they explain that this draws the viewer's attention into the picture. This response is not fully developed. Identifying that an object is in the middle does not automatically make it draw the viewer's attention. More explanation is needed. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies rule of thirds as a compositional technique used in this image. They refer to the off-centre splash and explain the creative effect on composition. **(1 mark)**

The candidate then identifies leading lines as another compositional technique used. They explain how the splash of water draws the viewer's eye into the picture. **(1 mark)**

### Question 11(d)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies broken parts of the vase going everywhere and how this contributes to the chaotic atmosphere as the viewer's eyes are drawn to multiple parts of the image. **(1 mark)**

The candidate then identifies that the dark and empty background creates an intense mood and isolated atmosphere. They explain how this mood and atmosphere is created by the objects being surrounded by darkness. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies the contrasting symbolism of the flower, water, and the broken glass. They explain how this creates an uneasy atmosphere as the objects create opposing connotations of peace and danger. (This point would be awarded **1 mark**. However, the candidate has already achieved maximum marks for this question).

### Question 12

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies the use of daylight white balance. They give valid justifications and discuss the effect on the viewer. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies the use of a large aperture. They justify this by explaining the resulting blurred effect on the background of the image. They discuss the effect on how the image is viewed. However, the explanation lacks specific detail about the image. For example, what subject matter in the foreground is in focus that attracts the viewer's attention? In what way is the image not visually overwhelming? **(0 marks)**



They then identify the potential use of a low ISO. However, the explanation is general and does not refer to specific details of the image that would provide the justification needed. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies the use of a standard lens. However, they give a general explanation of the effect of a standard lens. The explanation lacks detail about the image that would show appropriate knowledge and understanding, for example information about the field of view and what it has captured. They suggest that this lens was chosen to create a nostalgic atmosphere but have not explained how a standard lens created this effect. **(0 marks)**

The candidate suggests that the photographer has not used a filter on their lens. They make general points that could be applied to many images. Specific detail is needed about the image. For example, what is it about the image that makes it appear unfiltered? In what way does the unfiltered image 'allow us to reflect on our own lives and experiences'? **(0 marks)**

The candidate then suggests that no flash was used to capture the image. They give a general explanation of the effect achieved. However, this lacks specific detail about the image and does not show appropriate knowledge and understanding of the lighting used. **(0 marks)**

The candidate describes the location by giving specific details of the subject matter and colour palette. They explain the atmosphere created and the effect on the viewer. **(1 mark)**

The candidate describes the appealing and fresh food on the table and how this creates a point of interest. They discuss how this communicates a homely atmosphere. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies a small depth of field and its effect on the viewer. However, the explanation lacks specific detail about the image. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies the low viewpoint of the camera by referring to specific subject matter and explains what this communicates to the viewer. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies the soft, round shapes of most of the objects, referring to specific subject matter. They discuss the symbolism and what it communicates. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies specific elements in the image that have connotations nature. They describe these and explain the effect created. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies a clock in the background. They explain the symbolism communicated by this subject and its treatment. **(1 mark)**

The candidate refers to a specific features of the subject matter and discusses the atmosphere that this communicates to the viewer. **(1 mark)**

## Candidate 4

The candidate was awarded **15/30 marks**.

### Section 1: multiple choice

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** for this section. Marks were awarded as follows:

- Question 1 – **0 marks**
- Question 2 – **0 marks**
- Question 3 – **1 mark**
- Question 4 – **0 marks**
- Question 5 – **1 mark**
- Question 6 – **1 mark**
- Question 7 – **1 mark**
- Question 8 – **1 mark**
- Question 9 – **0 marks**
- Question 10 – **1 mark**

### Section 2: analysis

The candidate was awarded **9 marks** for this section.

#### Question 11(a)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies shutter speed as an appropriate camera control used to capture the image. **(1 mark)**

The candidate then correctly explains that the photographer used a fast shutter speed. They explain why it was used to create the effects in the image, showing appropriate knowledge and understanding. **(1 mark)**

#### Question 11(b)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies a photograph lamp as a piece of equipment used by the photographer. They explain that the lamp was used to add brightness to the image so that it would be correctly exposed. They refer to a specific detail of the image. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies the use of a tripod. The candidate states that would make it easier for the photographer to create the splash. However, their explanation is not relevant to this image as the photographer used a fast shutter speed, which would eliminate any potential camera shake. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies the use of a backdrop. They explain that the black background allows the viewer to focus on the objects. **(1 mark)**

**Question 11(c)**

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies rule of odds as a compositional technique used by the photographer. They state that the three objects – plate, flower, and mug – add natural balance to the image. The candidate has not fully developed their point to explain how these three objects create natural balance in this image. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies focal point as a compositional technique. They explain how the focal point is created and its effect on the viewer. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies the use of negative space. They how negative space is used in the image and how it affects the viewer. **(1 mark)**

**Question 11(d)**

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for this question.

The candidate identifies a dramatic mood and atmosphere and explain that this is created through the use of specific subject matter. **(1 mark)**

The candidate identifies a relaxing mood and connects this to the smashing of the mug and water in the image. However, they have not explained in what way this action creates a relaxing mood. **(0 marks)**

**Question 12**

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this question.

The candidate identifies a specific feature as the focal point of the scene and state that the viewer' eye goes straight to it. However, more discussion is needed about why they think the photographer chose this as the focal point, or how this focal point was created. **(0 marks)**

They identify the use of repetition throughout the image. They refer to specific items, and explain the effect given. **(1 mark)**

The candidate describes the light colours throughout the image, giving the example of the light blue walls in the background. They state that this creates a calm mood and atmosphere but do not develop the point to explain how this is achieved. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies the use of shallow depth of field and explain the effect on the image and the atmosphere communicated. **(1 mark)**

The candidate comments on mood and atmosphere and connect this to the subject matter. However, the explanation lacks detail, for example in what way specific subject matter creates this atmosphere. **(0 marks)**

The candidate refers to the use of brown colours and states that this creates high contrast. However, the point is not fully explained to show appropriate knowledge and understanding. **(0 marks)**

The candidate incorrectly identifies a small aperture/big f-stop. They state that the small aperture has created a bright image and makes the image correctly exposed. This point is factually incorrect. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies the use of a standard lens to capture this scene as the human eye would see it. However, the explanation is general, and they have not referred to specific features of the image. **(0 marks)**

The candidate states that hard lighting has been used. and attempt to explain their point. However, this is an incorrect point as the lighting within the scene is primarily soft. **(0 marks)**

The candidate discusses the use of a low ISO number. However, their explanation is general and does not refer to specific features of the image. **(0 marks)**

The candidate states that leading lines have been used on the table and explain that these lead the viewer's eye across the page. However, the explanation is not fully developed and lacks in specific detail about the image. In what way this makes the viewer 'look at everything in more detail' is not explained. **(0 marks)**

The candidate identifies the use of black and white tones in specific areas and explains that this creates contrast, making it more pleasing to the eye. However, they have not fully explained in what way this contrast makes the image more pleasing to look at. **(0 marks)**