

**Pre Image Processing**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Example</b>
1	Gardening at the composition stage	Remove distracting items from surrounding area
2	Don't divide the image into parts	A central groyne divides the image
3	Diagonals and Lead in Lines	Stream leads to mountain
4	Depth of field	F5.6 = shallow : F16 long
5	Image sharpness	Focus on the key element of the image and recompose image before taking as necessary
6	Composition thirds	The key item is on a third, vertical or horizontal
7	Don't create a 'barrier' to entering the image	A boat obstructs the view of the river scene
8	When photographing 'objects' work in odd numbers eg 1,3,5,7	Flower stems in the picture

**Post Image Processing**

1	Nice to know where an image was taken not just titled as 'Dusk'	Titles should complement the image and give information were possible
2	In record work give a good descriptive title	Provide accurate details
3	Create a stroke / white border around the image for presentation purpose	For prints , for digital consider a stroke around the image
4	Mount boards, it is normally expected that boards are white, cream or grey	Coloured boards can work on occasions e.g. Black

**Image processing**

1	What is the image	Your in camera image may be 'too much' for a competition entry – remove uninteresting foreground or sky from the image
2	KISS – over complexity	Don't have too much in the image
3	Images do not have to be in a 3 x 2 format	Crop to square or letterbox etc
4	Remove unwanted items at the edges off the image	Crop the image or use healing brush and clone stamp to remove the item(s)
5	Over cropping /pixelation	Don't't overcrop / enlarge an image so that the detail of the image is lost or becomes "soft"
6	Verticals and horizontals	Use the straightening tool or transform to correct for sloping items
7	Distracting items – hot spots	Use healing brush and clone stamp to remedy the item(s)
8	Dominant background	Use Gaussian Blur to defuse the background and allow the key object to stand out
9	Dark edges /corners - Vignette	Make an edge/corner selection, and darken the selection to let the central / key item stand out
10	Dark Bases	As above to key a good base to the image
11	Tonal Composition	Check the levels histogram and adjust as necessary
12	Differential tones	Consider selecting different area of an image and tonal adjusting them separately
13	Saturation	Don't make colours unnatural

**Can I break the composition rules ? ..... WHY NOT**