Judging Guidelines

If a specific subject is given to photograph does the photo fit the subject given/chosen ?

Impact

Does it grab your attention (Look at it for more than one second !)
Does it excite your imagination ? (Makes you laugh , cry , sad ?)
Does it show a familiar subject in a new way ?
Does it show an unusual subject in an effective way ?

Composition

Is the cropping of the subject effective ?
Is the alignment correct? Or is it crooked by intent?
Are there leading lines taking the eye into the photo?

Technical

Focus :   Is the image sharp ? Is it intentionally soft ?
Depth of field: Is the main subject sharp? Is the background out of focus to make the main subject stand out?
Density :   Is it too light ? Too dark ? Just right ?
Lighting :   Is the lighting effective ? Too dark ? Just right ? Do the shadows add to, or detract from the photo?
Colours :   Does it have a strange colour cast ? If black and white
                       is it too greyish ? Is that intentional ?
Manipulation : Obvious signs of bad manipulation such as pixilation ?
Printing :   Lines or banding caused by blocked printer heads or
                       Running out of ink

Presentation

Physical :   Is the print free of finger prints , scratches, creases, dust, spots, stains ?
Paper choice may also play a part in the impact of the photograph.

 For judging of a photo ignore the borders it may enhance the photo but it is the photo you are judging.