General (and Detailed) Requirements for an Instrument	
Who is the user?	Engineer or lay person
What is the purpose and general operation of the product?	Examples: Measurement of analog values, storage, display, control, etc.
Are there constraints?	Power/Safety/Environment/Size/Weight/Cost/ Special timing requirements?
What are the general interfaces to the outside world?	**Inputs** (Analog, digital, switches, keypad ?) **Outputs** (Analog, digital ?) **Communication** (To PC/ other instruments?) **User inputs and responses:** What can the user choose? What will the user see or hear?
Other Questions of a general nature.	Are there constraints on manufacturing/ Is updating necessary/ Maintenance? What is the expected production volume - several units / large volume -a consumer product?
More Technical Questions **INPUTS**	**Inputs:** Number and type of inputs (Analog, etc) Range and resolution of values (i.e. 0-600volts +- 0.1 volts.) Frequency range (if it applies)
PROCESSING	Conversion to engineering units / Analysis ?
ERROR CONDITIONS	What are the error conditions and what is the action to be taken ? (i.e. Reset the system/ Ignore ?)
OUTPUTS	Type of display; number of digits; Update rate
STORAGE	What values are to be stored? / How many? What format?/ How retreived
ALARMS	Alarm for over-range or bad data?
ACCEPTANCE TEST	What satisfies the user (or test users) that the product works as required?

NOTE: The emphasis in the General Requirements is on the operation of the product and its relation to the **OUTSIDE WORLD -** not the requirements for the components, etc and the internal workings - unless a requirement specifies particulars of the internal design.