

## The JKA *Kyu* and *Dan* Rank Certification

System[http://jka.or.jp/en/karate/dan\\_rank.html](http://jka.or.jp/en/karate/dan_rank.html)

There are 10 *Kyu* and 10 *Dan* in JKA karate. To obtain certification for each rank, you must fulfill the certification requirements and complete the testing procedure. Testing—or grading—is carried out by a panel of instructors authorized as JKA technical examiners.

Typically, *Dan* grading sessions take place 4 times per year, and *Kyu* grading takes place twice. In order to be eligible for testing, you must first have gained the appropriate amount of continuous experience at your current rank. Then, depending on the level of *Dan* you are being graded for, you may have to take the test outside your own country or region (at the higher *Dan* ranks, only Tokyo JKA HQ is authorized to evaluate, grade and issue certification).

These details are summarized in the following chart.

### *Kyu* and *Dan* Grading Prerequisites

Rank	Min. Experience	Testing Location
<a href="#"><u>10th to 1st Kyu</u></a>		Branch dojo or group
<a href="#"><u>1st Dan</u></a>	1 yr Cannot apply same day as attaining 1st <i>Dan</i>	Prefectural HQ or Branch dojo or group, with permission of Tokyo JKA HQ
<a href="#"><u>2nd Dan</u></a>	1 yr at 1st <i>Dan</i> rank	National (Prefectural) HQ or Regional HQ, with permission of Tokyo JKA HQ
<a href="#"><u>3rd Dan</u></a>	2 yrs at 2nd <i>Dan</i> rank	Tokyo JKA HQ or Regional HQ, with permission of Tokyo JKA HQ
<a href="#"><u>4th Dan</u></a>	3 yrs at 3rd <i>Dan</i> rank	Tokyo JKA HQ
<a href="#"><u>5th Dan</u></a>	4 yrs at 4th <i>Dan</i> rank	Tokyo JKA HQ
<a href="#"><u>6th Dan</u></a>	6 yrs at 5th <i>Dan</i> rank	Spring camp in JKA HQ or Autumn camp in JKA HQ or Funakoshi Gichin Cup world championships
<a href="#"><u>7th Dan</u></a>	7 yrs at 6th <i>Dan</i> rank	Upon recommendation by Instructor Committee
<a href="#"><u>8th Dan</u></a>	7 yrs at 7th <i>Dan</i> rank	Upon recommendation by Instructor Committee
<a href="#"><u>9th Dan</u></a>	8 yrs at 8th <i>Dan</i> rank	Upon recommendation by Instructor Committee
<a href="#"><u>10th Dan</u></a>	9 yrs at 9th <i>Dan</i> rank	Upon recommendation by Instructor Committee

1st *Dan*

***Kihon:***

- • Sambon Renzuki
- ← • Jodan Age-uke+Gyaku-zuki
- • Chudan Soto-uke+Yoko Empi+Yoko Urakenuchi +Gyaku-zuki  
(Zenkutsu-dachi to Kiba-dachi to Zenktsu-dachi)
- ← • Chudan-Uchi-uke+Kizami-zuki+Gyaku-zuki
- • Shuto-uke+Nukite (Kokutsu-dachi to Zenkutsu-dachi)
- →Mae-geri
- →Rengeri (Chudan/Jodan)
- • Mawashi-geri
- • Yoko Ke-age (Kibadachi) alternate feet
- • Yoko Ke-komi (Kibadachi) alternate feet

**Kata:** Sentei Kata (Bassaidai, Kankudai, Empi, Jion)—student may choose any of these

**Kumite:** Jiyu Ippon Kumite –  
Jodan/Chudan/Maegeri/YokoKekomi/Mawashigeri (right/one side)

\* Examiners test for basic understanding and functional ability in the foundational techniques of karate.

- **is forward movement**
- ← **is backward movement**

## 2nd Dan

### **Kihon:**

- →Kizami-zuki+Sambon Renzuki (free Kamae)
- →Mae-geri+Jun-zuki (free Kamae)
- ← Jodan Age-uke+Chudan Soto-uke+Gyaku-zuki (Block with same arm)
- ← Gedan-barai+ → Chudan Jun-zuki+ Chudan Jun-zuki
- ← Shuto-uke+Kizami-Maegeri+Nukite (Kokutsu-dachi to Zenkutsudachi)
- → Yoko Ke-age+Yoko Ke-komi (Kibadachi, alternate feet)
- →Yoko Ke-komi+Gyaku-zuki (free Kamae)
- →Mawashi-geri+Gyaku-zuki (free Kamae)

**Kata:** Student's favorite Kata

**Kumite:** Jiyu Kumite

\*Examiners test for understanding and proficiency in the foundational techniques of karate.

### 3rd Dan

#### ***Kihon:***

- • Kizami-zuki+Sambon Renzuki (free Kamae)
- ← • Jodan-Age-uke+Chudan-Soto-uke+Gyaku-zuki (with same  
→ arm)
- Chudan-Uchi-uke+Kizami-zuki+Gyaku-zuki (Kokutsu-dachi to Zenkutsu-dachi)
- ← Shuto-uke+Kizami-Mae-geri+Nukite (Kokutsu-dachi to Zenkutsudachi)
- ← Jodan-Age-uke+ → Mawashi-geri+Yokourakenuchi+Chudan-Junzuki Maegeri+Yoko-Kekomi+Mawashi-geri+Gyaku-zuki (alternate feet) Mae-geri+Yoko-Kekomi+Ushiro-geri (Zenkutsu-dachi+ Same feet left/right )

***Kata:*** Student's favorite Kata

***Kumite:*** Jiyu Kumite

\*Examiners test for understanding and proficiency in the standard techniques of karate.

### 4th Dan

#### ***Kihon:***

- • Kizami-zuki+Sambon Renzuki (free Kamae)
- ← • Chudan-Uchi-uke+Kizami-zuki+Gyaku-zuki (Kokutsu-dachi to Zenkutsu-dachi)
- → Shuto-uke+Kizami-Mae-Geri +Nukite (Kokutsu-dachi, Zenkutsudachi)
- • Maegeri+Yoko-Kekomi+Gyaku-zuki (Same feet)
- • Mae-geri+Yoko-kekomi+Ushiro-geri (Zenkutsu-dachi same feet)
- Gyaku-zuki (Idomokuhyo : punching at different points by examiner's direction)

***Kata:*** Student's favorite Kata; also Shitei Kata (from Heian Shodan to Tekki Shodan) specified by examiner

***Kumite:*** Jiyu Kumite

- Examiners test for understanding and mastery of all karate techniques; for an understanding of the philosophy of karate; for an ability to apply these fundamentals and functional aspects in practice; and for an ability to instruct

→ **is forward movement**

← **is backward**

**movement**

**5th Dan**

Gyaku-zuki (Idomokuhyo: punching at different points by examiner's direction)

***Kata:*** Gyaku-zuki; Student's favorite Kata; Shitei Kata (from Heian Shodan to Tekki Shodan) specified by examiner; Question and Answer Session

***Kumite:*** Jiyu Kumite

\* Examiners test for high-level mastery of karate techniques, and the ability to apply technique in one's own unique way

**6th Dan**

***Kata:*** Student's favorite Kata; Sentei Kata; Question and Answer Session

***Kumite:*** Jiyu Kumite

\* Must demonstrate high-level mastery of both the physical and mental aspects of karate training

**7th Dan**

***Kata:*** Student's favorite Kata

General: Question and Answer Session; Research Dissertation (about techniques)

***Kumite:*** Jiyu Kumite

□ Must demonstrate extensive, matured mastery of both the physical and mental aspects of karate training

**8th, 9th, 10th *Dan***

Recommendation of Instructors Committee

\* Must demonstrate total mastery of the secrets of karate, both physical and mental, and show an extraordinary level of spiritual development

To progress to the next Kyu or Dan, JKA students must demonstrate exceptional skill and near flawless execution of a prescribed set of techniques and kata. Our specially-trained instructors and examiners carefully study and evaluate each student based on the criteria shown by clicking on any rank on the chart above.