



JKA 公益社団法人 日本空手協会 Japan Karate Association

The Keeper of Karate's Highest Tradition

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

There are 10 *Kyu* and 10 *Dan* in JKA karate. To obtain certification for each rank, you must fulfil 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 once a year during JKAWF INDIA Kolkata Annual Camp and *Kyu* grading takes place two to three times. 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).

Rank	Min. Experience	Testing Location
<u>10th to 1st Kyu</u>		Branch dojo or group
<u>1st Dan</u>	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
<u>2nd Dan</u>	1 yr at 1st <i>Dan</i> rank	National (Prefectural) HQ or Regional HQ, with permission of Tokyo JKA HQ
<u>3rd Dan</u>	2 yrs at 2nd <i>Dan</i> rank	
<u>4th Dan</u>	3 yrs at 3rd <i>Dan</i> rank	Tokyo JKA HQ or Regional HQ, with permission of Tokyo JKA HQ
<u>5th Dan</u>	4 yrs at 4th <i>Dan</i> rank	
<u>6th Dan</u>	6 yrs at 5th <i>Dan</i> rank	Tokyo JKA HQ
<u>7th Dan</u>	7 yrs at 6th <i>Dan</i> rank	Spring camp in JKA HQ or Autumn camp in JKA HQ or Funakoshi Gichin Cup world championships
<u>8th Dan</u>	7 yrs at 7th <i>Dan</i> rank	Upon recommendation by Instructor Committee
<u>9th Dan</u>	8 yrs at 8th <i>Dan</i> rank	Upon recommendation by Instructor Committee
<u>10th Dan</u>	9 yrs at 9th <i>Dan</i> rank	

These details are summarized in the following chart.

Kyu Grading Prerequisites (w.e.f. 1 April, 2017)

10th Kyu

KIHON – In place basics from Natural Stance (Sonoba-kihon: Shizen-Tai Hachiji Dachi)

1. CHUUDAN CHOKUZUKI
 2. JOUDAN AGEUKE
 3. CHUUDAN SOTOUKE
 4. GEDAN BARAI
 5. MAEGERI (HEISOKU DACHI, GEDAN KAKIWAKE)
- * “GOREI” command (Starting from right side in count), 4 times each

9th Kyu

KIHON – In place basics from Natural Stance to Zenkutsu Dachi (Sonoba-kihon: Shizen Tai Hachiji Dachi Kara Zenkutsu-Dachi)

1. CHUUDAN JUNZUKI
 2. JOUDAN AGEUKE
 3. CHUUDAN SOTOUKE,
 4. MAEGERI (ZENKUTSUDACHI, GEDAN KAKIWAKE)
- * “GOREI” command (Starting from right side in count), 4 times each

8th Kyu

IDO KIHON – Moving basics from GEDAN BARAI in ZENKUTSU DACHI (5 times each of the following);

1. CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JOUDAN AGEUKE (step in)
3. CHUUDAN SOTOUKE (step in)
4. GEDAN BARAI (step in)
5. KOKUTSU DACHI SHUTOU UKE (step in)
6. MAEGERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)
7. YOKOGERI KEAGE (in HEISOKU DACHI, right and left 2 times each)

KATA - TAIKYOKU SHOUDAN

KUMITE - GOHON KUMITE (JOUDAN JUNZUKI, CHUUDAN JUNZUKI)

7th Kyu

IDO KIHON – Moving basics from GEDAN BARAI in ZENKUTSU DACHI (4-5 times each of the following);

1. CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JOUDAN AGEUKE (step back)
3. CHUUDAN SOTOUKE (step in)
4. CHUUDAN UCHIUKE (step back)
5. KOUKUTSU DACHI SHUTOU UKE (step in)
6. MAEGERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)
7. YOKOGERI KEAGE (in KIBA DACHI, stepping in, right and left)

KATA - HEIAN SHOUDAN

KUMITE - GOHON KUMITE (JOUDAN JUNZUKI, CHUUDAN JUNZUKI)

6th Kyu

IDO KIHON – Moving basics from GEDAN BARAI in ZENKUTSU DACHI (4-5 times each of the following);

1. CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JOUDAN AGEUKE (step back)
3. CHUUDAN SOTOUKE (step in)
4. CHUUDAN UCHIUKE (step back)
5. KOUKUTSU DACHI SHUTOU UKE (step in)
6. MAEGERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)
7. YOKOGERI KEAGE (in KIBA DACHI, right and left) (step in)
8. YOKOGERI KEKOMI (in KIBA DACHI, right and left) (step in)

KATA - HEIAN NIDAN

KUMITE - KIHON IPPON KUMITE (JOUDAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUUDAN JUNZUKI – right and left)

Note:

* *Attacking order to be Right Joudan, Right Chuudan and then Left Joudan, Left Chuudan.*

* *Defence by using Age-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki and Chudan Soto-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki.*

5th Kyu

IDO KIHON – Moving basics from GEDAN BARAI in ZENKUTSU DACHI (4-5 times each of the following);

1. CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JOUDAN AGEUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
3. CHUUDAN SOTOUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step in)
4. CHUUDAN UCHIUKE, CHUUDAN GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
5. KOUKUTSU DACHI SHUTOU UKE (step in)
6. MAEGERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)
7. YOKOGERI KEAGE (in KIBA DACHI, right and left) (step in)
8. YOKOGERI KEKOMI (in KIBA DACHI, right and left) (step in)

KATA - HEIAN SANDAN

KUMITE - KIHON IPPON KUMITE (JOUDAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUUDAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUUDAN MAEGERI – right and left from GEDAN KAKIWAKE).

Note:

* *Attacking order to be Right Joudan, Right Chuudan, Right Maegeri, then Left Joudan, Left Chuudan and Left Maegeri.*

* *Defence by using Age-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki and Chudan Soto-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki, Gedan-Barai Kara Gyaku-Zuki.*

* *Use of Tai-Sabaki is not permitted.*

4th Kyu

IDO KIHON – Moving basics from GEDAN BARAI in ZENKUTSU DACHI (4-5 times each of the following);

1. CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JOUDAN AGEUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
3. CHUUDAN SOTOUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step in)
4. CHUUDAN UCHIUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
5. KOUKUTSU DACHI SHUTOU UKE, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step in)
6. MAEGERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)
7. YOKOGERI KEAGE (in KIBA DACHI, right and left) (step in)

8. YOKOGERI KEKOMI (in KIBA DACHI, right and left) (step in)

KATA - HEIAN YONDAN

KUMITE - KIHON IPPON KUMITE (JOUNDAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUUDAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUUDAN MAEGERI from GEDAN KAKIWAKE – right and left, CHUUDAN YOKOGERI KEKOMI – right and left)

Note:

* Attacking order to be Right Joudan, Right Chuudan, Right Maegeri, Right Yokogeri Kekomi then Left Joudan, Left Chuudan, Left Maegeri and Left Yokogeri Kekomi.

* *Defence by using Age-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki; Chudan Soto-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki; Gedan-Barai Kara Gyaku-Zuki and Chudan Soto-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki.*

* *Use of Tai-Sabaki is not permitted.*

3rd Kyu

IDO KIHON – Moving basics from GEDAN BARAI in ZENKUTSU DACHI (3 times each of the following);

1. CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JOUNDAN AGEUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
3. CHUUDAN SOTOUKE, GYAKUZUKI (step in)
4. CHUUDAN UCHIUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
5. KOUKUTSU DACHI SHUTOU UKE, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step in)
6. MAEREGI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)
7. REN GERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE CHUUDAN, JOUNDAN) (step in)
8. MAWASHIGERI
9. YOKOGERI KEAGE (in KIBA DACHI, right and left) (step in)
10. YOKOGERI KEKOMI (in KIBA DACHI, right and left) (step in)

KATA - HEIAN GODAN

KUMITE - KIHON IPPON KUMITE

(JOUNDAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUUDAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUDAN MAEGERI from GEDAN KAKIWAKE – right and left, CHUDAN YOKOGERI KEKOMI – right and left)

Note:

* Attacking order to be Right Joudan, Right Chuudan, Right Maegeri, Right Yokogeri Kekomi then Left Joudan, Left Chuudan, Left Maegeri and Left Yokogeri Kekomi.

* *Defence by using Age-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki; Chudan Soto-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki; Gedan-Barai Kara Gyaku-Zuki and Chudan Soto-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki.*

* *Use of Tai-Sabaki is not permitted.*

2nd Kyu

IDO KIHON – Moving basics from GEDAN BARAI in ZENKUTSU DACHI (3-4 times each of the following);

1. CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JOUNDAN AGEUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
3. CHUUDAN SOTOUKE in ZENKUTSU DACHI, changing stance to KIBA DACHI, YOKO ENPI and YOKO URAKEN UCHI (step in)
4. CHUUDAN UCHIUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
5. KOUKUTSU DACHI SHUTOU UKE, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step in)
6. MAEGERI from GEDAN KAKIWAKE (step in)
7. REN GERI from GEDAN KAKIWAKE (CHUUDAN, JOUNDAN) (step in)
8. MAWASHI GERI (step in)
9. YOKOGERI KEAGE (in KIBA DACHI, right 2 and left 2) (step in)
10. YOKOGERI KEKOMI (in ZENKUTSUDACHI) (step in)

KATA - TEKKI SHODAN

KUMITE - JIYUU IPPON KUMITE (JODAN JUNZUKI, CHUUDAN JUNZUKI, CHUUDAN MAEGERI, CHUUDAN YOKOGERI KEKOMI right).

Note:

* *Attacking order to be Right Joudan, Right Chuudan, Right Maegeri and Right Yokogeri Kekomi*

* *Announce before each attack - Joudan, Chuudan, Maegeri, Yoko-Kekomi.*

* *Defence by using Age-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki; Chuudan Soto-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki; Gedan-Barai Kara Gyaku-Zuki and Chuudan Soto-Uke Kara Gyaku-Zuki.*

1st Kyu

IDO KIHON – Moving basics from GEDAN BARAI in ZENKUTSU DACHI (3 times each of the following);

1. CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)

2. SANBON RENZUKI (step in)

3. JOUDAN AGEUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)

4. CHUUDAN SOTOUKE, YOKO ENPI, YOKO URAKEN UCHI (ZENKUTSU DACHI changing stance to

KIBA DACHI) (step in)

5. CHUUDAN UCHIUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)

6. KOUKUTSU DACHI SHUTOU UKE, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step in)

7. MAEGERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)

8. RENGARI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE CHUUDAN, JOUDAN) (step in)

9. MAWASHIGERI (step in)

10. YOKOGERI KEAGE (in KIBA DACHI, right and left) (step in)

11. YOKOGERI KEKOMI (ZENKUTSUDACHI) (step in)

KATA - BASSAI DAI, KANKU DAI, ENPI or JION (your choice from Sentei-Kata)

KUMITE - JIYU IPPON KUMITE (JOUDAN JUNZUKI, CHUUDAN JUNZUKI, CHUUDAN MAEGERI, CHUUDAN YOKOGERI KEKOMI, JOUDAN MAWASHIGERI) right

Note:

* *Attacking order to be Right Joudan, Right Chuudan, Right Maegeri, Right Yokogeri Kekomi and Right Mawashi-Geri.*

* *Announce before each attack - Joudan, Chuudan, Maegeri, Yoko-Kekomi, Mawashi-Geri.*

* *Defence by free-choice, however, the `basic Ukewaza and Gyaku-Zuki` are highly recommended.*

* *Mawashi-Geri is either Chuudan or Joudan (to be decided and announced by the attacker as either “Chuudan Mawashi-Geri” or “Joudan Mawashi-Geri”).*

Dan Grading Prerequisites (w.e.f. 1 April, 2017)

1st Dan SHODAN

IDO KIHON – Moving basics from GEDAN BARAI in ZENKUTSU DACHI (3 times each of the following);

1. CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. SANBON RENZUKI (step in)
3. JOUDAN AGEUKE, GYAKUZUKI (step back)
4. CHUUDAN SOTOUKE, YOKOENPI, YOKO URAKENUCHI, GYAKUZUKI (ZENKUTSU DACHI changing stance to KIBA DACHI changing stance to ZENKUTSUDACHI) (step in)
5. CHUUDAN UCHIUKE, KIZAMI ZUKI, GYAKUZUKI (step back)
6. KOUKUTSU DACHI SHUTOU UKE, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step in)
7. MAEGERI (from GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)
8. RENGARI (from GEDAN KAKIWAKE CHUUDAN, JOUDAN) (step in)
9. MAWASHIGERI (step in)
10. YOKOGERI KEAGE (KIBADACHI – right and left) (step in)
11. YOKOGERI KEKOMI (ZENKUTSUDACHI)

KATA - BASSAI DAI, KANKU DAI, ENPI or JION (your choice from Sentei-Kata)

KUMITE - JIYU IPPON KUMITE (right JOUDAN JUNZUKI, right CHUUDAN JUNZUKI, right CHUUDAN MAEGERI, right CHUUDAN YOKOGERI KEKOMI, right CHUUDAN MAWASHI GERI – one side only)

Note:

* *Attacking order to be Right Joudan, Right Chuudan, Right Maegeri, Right Yokogeri Kekomi and Right Mawashi-Geri.*

* *Announce before each attack - Joudan, Chuudan, Maegeri, Yoko-Kekomii, Mawashi-Geri.*

* *Defence by free-choice, however, the `basic Ukewaza and Gyaku-Zuki` are highly recommended.*

* *Mawashi-Geri is either Chuudan or Joudan (to be decided and announced by the attacker as either “Chuudan Mawashi-Geri” or “Joudan Mawashi-Geri”).*

2nd Dan NIDAN

Minimum of one year at 1st Dan rank.

IDO KIHON – Moving basics

1. CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. SANBON RENZUKI (step in)
3. AGEUKE, SOTOUKE (with same arm), GYAKUZUKI (step back)
4. UCHIUKE (KOKUTSU DACHI), (to ZENKUTSU DACHI) KIZAMIZUKI, GYAKUZUKI (step in)
5. KOUKUTSHU DACHI SHUTOU UKE, KIZAMI MAEGERI, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step back)
6. RENGARI (from GEDAN KAKIWAKE CHUUDAN & JOUDAN) (step in)
7. YOKOGERI KEAGE, YOKOGERI KEKOMI (KIBA DACHI, alternate feet)
8. YOKOGERI KEKOMI (ZENKUTSUDACHI) (step in)
9. MAWASHIGERI (step in)
10. AGEUKE, MAWASHIGERI, YOKO URAKENUCHI, CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step back)

KATA - Student's favourite KATA (Tokui Kata)

KUMITE - JIYU KUMITE

Note:

* *Choice from Sentei-Kata is highly recommended at this level.*

3rd Dan SANDAN

Minimum of two years at 2nd Dan rank.

IDO KIHON – Moving basics

1. JOUDAN KIZAMI ZUKI, JOUDAN JUNZUKI, CHUUDAN GYAKUZUKI (Jiyu Kamae) (step in)
 2. JOUDAN AGEUKE, CHUUDAN SOTOUKE (with same arm), GYAKUZUKI (step back)
 3. CHUUDAN UCHIUKE, KIZAMI ZUKI, GYAKU ZUKI (KOKUTSU DACHI to ZENKUTSU DACHI) (step in)
 4. KOUKUTSU DACHI SHUTOU UKE, KIZAMI MAEGERI, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step back)
 5. AGEUKE (step in), MAWASHIGERI, YOKO URAKENUCHI, CHUUDAN JUNZUKI (step back)
 6. MAEGERI, GYAKUZUKI, YOKOGERI KEKOMI, GYAKUZUKI, MAWASHIGERI, GYAKUZUKI (alternate feet) (step in)
- KATA** - Student's favourite KATA (Tokui Kata)
KUMITE - JIYU KUMITE

4th Dan YONDAN

Minimum of three years at 3rd Dan rank.

IDO KIHON – Moving basics

1. SANBON RENZUKI (step in)
 2. AGEUKE, SOTOUKE (with same arm), GYAKUZUKI (step back)
 3. CHUUDAN UCHIUKE (KOKUTSU DACHI), (to ZENKUTSU DACHI) KIZAMIZUKI, GYAKUZUKI (step in)
 4. KOUKUTSU DACHI SHUTOU UKE, KIZAMI MAEGERI, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step back)
 5. MAEGERI, JUNZUKI (step in)
 6. MAEGERI, GYAKUZUKI (step in)
 7. YOKOGERI KEKOMI, GYAKUZUKI (step in)
 8. MAWASHIGERI, GYAKUZUKI (step in)
 9. MAEGERI, YOKOGERI KEKOMI, USHIROGERI (Sonoba-kihon: from ZENKUTSU DACHI same feet right and left)
- KATA** - HEIAN SHODAN to TEKKI NIDAN as specified by the examiner (Shitei-Kata)
Student's favourite KATA (Tokui Kata)
KUMITE - JIYU KUMITE

5th Dan GODAN

Minimum of four years at 4th Dan rank.

IDO KIHON – Moving basics

1. SANBON RENZUKI (step in)
2. AGEUKE, SOTOUKE (with same arm), GYAKUZUKI (step back)
3. CHUUDAN UCHIUKE (KOUKUTSU DACHI), (to ZENKUTSU DACHI) KIZAMIZUKI, GYAKUZUKI (step in)
4. SHUTOU UKE, KIZAMI MAEGERI, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step back)
5. MAEGERI, JOUDAN JUNZUKI, CHUUDAN GYAKUZUKI (step in)
6. YOKOGERI KEKOMI, GYAKUZUKI (step in)
7. MAWASHIGERI, GYAKUZUKI (step in)
8. MAEGERI, YOKOGERI KEKOMI, MAWASHIGERI, GYAKUZUKI (alternate feet) (step in)
9. MAEGERI, YOKOGERI KEKOMI, USHIROGERI (Sonoba-kihon: from ZENKUTSU DACHI same feet right and left)

KATA - HEIAN SHODAN to TEKKI SANDAN as specified by the examiner.
Student's favorite KATA (Tokui Kata) & Question and Answer Session
KUMITE - JIYU KUMITE

6th Dan ROKUDAN

Minimum of six years at 5th Dan rank.

KIHON – Specified by the examiner
KATA - BASSAIDAI, KANKU DAI, ENPI or JION – As specified by the examiner
(Sentei-Kata)
Student's favourite KATA (Tokui Kata) & Question and Answer Session
KUMITE - JIYU KUMITE
- Question and Answer Session on technique
- Submit a report on technique on the exam day

7th Dan NANADAN

Minimum of seven years at 6th Dan rank.

KIHON - Specified by the examiner
KATA - Student's favourite KATA (Tokui Kata) & Question and Answer Session
KUMITE - JIYU KUMITE
- Question and Answer Session on technique
- Submit a report on technique on the exam day

8th, 9th & 10th Dan HACHIDAN, KUDAN & JUDAN

8th Dan: Minimum of seven years at 7th Dan rank.

9th Dan: Minimum of eight years at 8th Dan rank.

10th Dan: Posthumous grade - Minimum of nine years at 9th Dan rank.

As Recommended by JKA Shihankai

NOTE: From 2nd Dan onwards

* Candidates of 60 years of age and older may opt to demonstrate Jiyu Ippon Kumite instead of Jiyu Kumite).

* Attacking order to be Right Joudan, Right Chuudan, Right Maegeri, Right Yokogeri Kekomi and Right Mawashi-Geri.

* Mawashi-Geri is either Chuudan or Joudan (to be decided and announced by the attacker as either "Chuudan Mawashi-Geri" or "Joudan Mawashi-Geri").

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.