

# DAN Ranking

## The SHOBUKAN *Kyu* and *Dan* Rank Certification System



There are 10 *Kyu* and 10 *Dan* in SHOBUKAN 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 SHOBUKAN 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 SHOBUKAN HQ is authorized to evaluate, grade and issue certification).

These details are summarized in the following chart.

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

#### 10th *Kyu*

【KIHON】 In place basics in SHIZEN TAI

1. CHUDAN CHOKUZUKI
2. JODAN AGEUKE
3. CHUDAN SOTOUKE
4. GEDAN BARAI
5. MAEGERI (HEISOKU DACHI, GEDAN KAKIWAKE)

\* “GOREI” command (From right side in turn for each Waza)

## 9thKyu

【KIHON】 In place basics in SHIZEN TAI to ZENKUTSU DACHI and back to SHIZEN TAI

1. CHUDAN JUNZUKI
2. JODAN AGEUKE
3. CHUDAN SOTOUKE,
4. MAEGERI (ZENKUTSUDACHI, GEDAN KAKIWAKE)

【KATA】 TAIKYOKU SHOUDAN

\* “GOREI” command (From right side two action in turn for each WAZA)

## 8thKyu

【KIHON】 IDOU KIHON Moving basics

1. CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JODAN AGEUKE (step in)
3. CHUDAN SOTOUKE (step in)
4. GEDAN BARAI (step in)
5. KOKUTSU 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 【KATA】 HEIAN SHODAN

【KUMITE】 GOHON KUMITE (JODAN JUNZUKI, CHUDAN JUNZUKI)

## 7thKyu

【KIHON】 IDOU KIHON Moving basics

1. CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JODAN AGEUKE (step back)
3. CHUDAN SOTOUKE (step in)
4. CHUDAN UCHIUKE (step back)

5. KOUKUTSU SHUTOU UKE (step in)
6. MAEGERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)
7. YOKOGERI KEAGE (in KIBA DACHI, stepping in, right and left)

【KATA】 TAIKYOKU SHOUDAN, HEIAN NIDAN

【KUMITE】 GOHON KUMITE (JODAN JUNZUKI, CHUDAN JUNZUKI)

## 6thKyu

【KIHON】 IDO KIHON Moving basics

1. CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JODAN AGEUKE (step back)
3. CHUDAN SOTOUKE (step in)
4. CHUDAN UCHIUKE (step back)
5. KOUKUTSU 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, HEIAN SANDAN

【KUMITE】 KIHON IPPON KUMITE (JODAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUDAN JUNZUKI – right and left)

## 5thKyu

【KIHON】 IDO KIHON Moving basics

1. CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JODAN AGEUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
3. CHUDAN SOTOUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step in)
4. CHUDAN UCHIUKE, CHUDAN GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
5. KOUKUTSU 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. YONDAN

【KUMITE】 KIHON IPPON KUMITE (JODAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUDAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUDAN MAEGERI – right and left, GEDAN KAKIWAKE – right and left)

### 4thKyu

【KIHON】 IDO KIHON Moving basics

1. CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JODAN AGEUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
3. CHUDAN SOTOUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step in)
4. CHUDAN UCHIUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
5. KOUKUTSU 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, GODAN

【KUMITE】 KIHON IPPON KUMITE (JODAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUDAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUDAN MAEGERI GEDAN KAKIWAKE – right and left, CHUDAN YOKOGERI KEKOMI – right and left)

### 3rdKyu

【KIHON】 IDO KIHON Moving basics

1. CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. JODAN AGEUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
3. CHUDAN SOTOUKE, GYAKUZUKI (step in)
4. CHUDAN UCHIUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)
5. KOUKUTSU SHUTOU UKE, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step in)
6. MAEREGI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)
7. REN GERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE CHUDAN, JODAN) (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】 HEIN YONDAN, HEIAN GODAN

【KUMITE】 KIHON IPPON KUMITE (JODAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUDAN JUNZUKI – right and left, CHUDAN MAEGERI GEDAN KAKIWAKE – right and left, CHUDAN YOKOGERI KEKOMI – right and left)

## *2ndKyu*

【KIHON】 IDO KIHON Moving basics

1. CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)

2. JODAN AGEUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)

3. CHUDAN SOTOUKE in ZENKUTSU DACHI, changing stance to KIBA DACHI, YOKO ENPI, YOKO URAKEN UCHI (step in)

4. CHUDAN UCHIUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)

5. KOUKUTSU SHUTOU UKE, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step in)

6. MAEGERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)

7. REN GERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE, CHUDAN, JODAN) (step in)

8. MAWASHI GERI (step in)

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

10. YOKOGERI KEKOMI (in ZENKUTSUDATI) (step in)

【KATA】 TEKKI SHODAN, BASSAI DAI

【KUMITE】 JIYUU IPPON KUMITE (JODAN JUNZUKI, CHUDAN JUNZUKI, CHUDAN MAEGERI, CHUDAN YOKOGERI KEKOMI right)

## *1stKyu*

【KIHON】 IDO KIHON Moving basics

1. CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)

2. SANBON RENZUKI (step in)

3. JODAN AGEUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)

4. CHUDAN SOTOUKE, YOKO ENPI, YOKO URAKEN UCHI (ZENKUTSU DACHI changing stance to KIBA DACHI) (step in)

5. CHUDAN UCHIUKE, GYAKU ZUKI (step back)

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

7. MAEGERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)

8. RENGARI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE CHUDAN, JODAN) (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)

【KUMITE】 JIYU IPPON KUMITE (JODAN JUNZUKI, CHUDAN JUNZUKI, CHUDAN MAEGERI, CHUDAN YOKOGERI KEKOMI, JODAN MAWASHIGERI) right

\* Inform your choice of JODAN or CHUDAN for MAWASHIGERI

## 1st*Dan*

【KIHON】 IDO KIHON Moving basics

1. CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)

2. SANBON RENZUKI (step in)

3. JODAN AGEUKE, GYAKUZUKI (step back)

4. CHUDAN SOTOUKE, YOKOENPI, YOKOURA KENUCHI, GYAKUZUKI (ZENKUTSU DACHI changing stance to KIBA DACHI changing stance to ZENKUTSUDACHI) (step in)

5. CHUDAN UCHIUKE, KIZAMI ZUKI, GYAKUZUKI (step back)

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

7. MAEGERI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE) (step in)

8. RENGARI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE CHUDAN, JODAN) (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)

【KUMITE】 JIYU IPPON KUMITE (right JODAN JUNZUKI, right CHUDAN JUNZUKI, right CHUDAN MAEGERI, right CHUDAN YOKOGERI KEKOMI, right CHUDAN MAWASHI GERI – one side only)

\* Inform your choice of JODAN or CHUDAN for MAWASHIGERI

## 2ndDan

【KIHON】 IDO KIHON Moving basics

1. CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)
2. SANBON RENZUKI (step in)
3. AGEUKE, SOTOUKE (with same arm), GYAKUZUKI (step back)
4. UCHIUKE, KIZAMIZUKI, GYAKUZUKI (KOKUTSU DACHI to ZENKUTSU DACHI) (step in)
5. KOUKUTSHU SHUTOUKE, KIZAMI MAEGERI, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step back)
6. RENGARI (GEDAN KAKIWAKE CHUDAN, JODAN) (step in)
7. YOKOGERI KEAGE, YOKOGERI KEKOMI (KIBA DACHI, alternate feet)
8. YOKOGERI KEKOMI (ZENKUTSUDACHI) (step in)
9. MAWASHIGERI (step in)
10. AGEUKE (step back), MAWASHIGERI, YOKOURA KENUCHI, CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)

【KATA】 BASSAI DAI, KANKU DAI, ENPI or JION (your choice)

【KUMITE】 JIYU KUMITE

## 3rdDan

【KIHON】 IDO KIHON Moving basics

1. JODAN KIZAMI ZUKI, JODAN JUNZUKI, CHUDAN GYAKUZUKI (free Kamae) (step in)
2. JODAN AGEUKE, CHUDAN SOTOUKE (with same arm), GYAKUZUKI (step back)
3. CHUDAN UCHIUKE, KIZAMI ZUKI, GYAKU ZUKI (KOKUTSU DACHI to ZENKUTSU DACHI) (step in)
4. KOUKUTSU SHUTOU UKE, KIZAMI MAEGERI, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step back)
5. AGEUKE (step back), MAWASHIGERI, YOKOURA KENUCHI, CHUDAN JUNZUKI (step in)

6. MAEGERI, GYAKUZUKI, YOKOGERI KEKOMI, GYAKUZUKI, MAWASHIGERI, GYAKUZUKI (alternate feet )  
(step in)

【KATA】 BASSAI DAI, KANKU DAI, ENPI or JION (your choice)

【KATA】 Student's favorite KATA

【KUMITE】 JIYU KUMITE

【JUDO】 BASIC JUDO TECHNIQUE or SELF DEFENCE WAZA

## 4thDan

【KIHON】 IDO KIHON Moving basics

1. SANBON RENZUKI (step in)
2. AGEUKE, SOTOUKE (with same arm), GYAKUZUKI (step back)
3. CHUDAN UCHIUKE, KIZAMIZUKI, GYAKUZUKI (KOKUTSU DACHI, ZENKUTSU DACHI) (step in)
4. SHUTOUKE, 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 (ZENKUTSU DACHI same feet right and left)

【KATA】 from HEIAN SHODAN to TEKKEI NIDAN specified by examiner,

【KATA】 BASSAI DAI, KANKU DAI, ENPI or JION (your choice) Student's favorite KATA

【KUMITE】 JIYU KUMITE

## 5thDan

【KIHON】 IDO KIHON Moving basics

1. SANBON RENZUKI (step in)
2. AGEUKE, SOTOUKE (with same arm), GYAKUZUKI (step back)
3. CHUDAN UCHIUKE, KIZAMIZUKI, GYAKUZUKI (KOUKUTSU DACHI, ZENKUTSUDACHI) (step in)



4. SHUTOU UKE, KIZAMI MAEGERI, ZENKUTSU NUKITE (step back)
5. MAEGERI, JODAN JUNZUKI, CHUDAN 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. MAEREGI, YOKOGERI KEKOMI, USHIROGERI (ZENKUTSUDACHI, with same foot, right and left)

【KATA】 from HEIAN SHODAN to TEKKI SANDAN –

【KATA】 BASSAI DAI, KANKU DAI, ENPI or JION. DAN NO KATA: JIIN, JITTE, GOJUSHI HO SHO, GOJUSHI HO DAI, KANKU SHO, UNSU, NIJUSHIHO, SOCHIN. specified by examiner, Student's favorite KATA (Question and Answer Session)

【KUMITE】 JIYU KUMITE

【JUDO】 BASIC JUDO TECHNIQUE or SELF DEFENCE WAZA

## **6thDan**

【KIHON】 Specified by examiner

【KATA】 BASSAI DAI, KANKU DAI, ENPI or JION. DAN NO KATA: JIIN, JITTE, GOJUSHI HO SHO, GOJUSHI HO DAI, KANKU SHO, UNSU, NIJUSHIHO, SOCHIN. specified by examiner, Student's favorite KATA¥ (Question and Answer Session)

【KUMITE】 JIYUU KUMITE

【JUDO】 BASIC JUDO TECHNIQUE or SELF DEFENCE WAZA

– Question and Answer Session on technique

– Submit a report on technique on the exam day

## **7thDan**

【KIHON】 Specified by examiner

【KATA】 BASSAI DAI, KANKU DAI, ENPI or JION. DAN NO KATA: JIIN, JITTE, GOJUSHI HO SHO, GOJUSHI HO DAI, KANKU SHO, UNSU, NIJUSHIHO, SOCHIN. specified by examiner, Student's favorite KATA

【KUMITE】 JIYUU KUMITE

- Question and Answer Session on technique
- Submit a report on technique on the exam day

## **8thDan**

Recommendation by Shihankai

## 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> Dan

Recommendation by Shihankai

**[NOTE] <from 2nd Dan to 7th Dan> General KUMITE for men / women the age of 60 and above are required JIYUU KUMITE or JIYUU IPPON KUMITE (JODAN JUNZUKI, CHUDAN JUNZUKI, CHUDAN MAEGERI, CHUDAN YOKOGERI KEKOMI, MAWASHIGERI) right**

**\* Inform JODAN or CHUDAN as for MAWASHIGERI**

To progress to the next Kyu or Dan, SHOBUKAN 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.

Rank	Min. Experience	Age	Testing Location
<b><u>10th to 1st Kyu</u></b>			Branch dojo or group
<b><u>1st Dan</u></b>	1 year , Cannot apply same day as attaining 1st <i>Dan</i>		Prefectural HQ or Branch dojo or group, with permission of Tokyo SHOBUKAN HQ
<b><u>2nd Dan</u></b>	1 year at 1st <i>Dan</i> rank		National (Prefectural) HQ or Regional HQ, with permission of Tokyo SHOBUKAN HQ
<b><u>3rd Dan</u></b>	2 years at 2nd <i>Dan</i> rank	18 and over	
<b><u>4th Dan</u></b>	3 years at 3rd <i>Dan</i> rank		Tokyo SHOBUKAN HQ or Regional HQ, with permission of Tokyo SHOBUKAN HQ
<b><u>5th Dan</u></b>	4 years at 4th <i>Dan</i> rank		
<b><u>6th Dan</u></b>	6 years at 5th <i>Dan</i> rank		Tokyo SHOBUKAN HQ
<b><u>7th Dan</u></b>	7 years at 6th <i>Dan</i> rank	50 and over	Spring camp in SHOBUKAN HQ or Autumn camp in SHOBUKAN HQ or Funakoshi Gichin Cup world championships
<b><u>8th Dan</u></b>	7 years at 7th <i>Dan</i> rank	60 and over	Upon recommendation by Instructor Committee

<b><u>9th Dan</u></b>	8 years at 8th <i>Dan</i> rank		Upon recommendation by Instructor Committee
<b><u>10th Dan</u></b>	9 years at 9th <i>Dan</i> rank		

## How to convert Dan taken from other Karate organization

### 【General condition】

1. Join Japan Karate Association or an organization under the SHOBUKAN WF
2. Provide the certificate issued by your former organization  
(Dan grade and the date of promotion should be displayed on that)
3. Your years of experience will be counted from the date of your last Dan examination in the former organization in the case of your testing for a higher SHOBUKAN Dan than you currently have.

### 【Outside of Japan】

1. You have to take exam for whichever Dan you apply. At the exam, submit a copy of the Dan certificate issued by your former organization.  
Up to 3rd Dan can be tested by the Special Dan right holder in each country. 4th and 5th Dans are tested by HQ instructors in each region. 6th Dan and above are tested for only at HQ.
2. The registration fee of the converted Dan is required. Additionally, the conversion fee of all previous Dan is also required.

### 【Conversion process】

1. Join an organization under the SHOBUKAN WF
2. Prepare a copy of the Dan certificate issued by your former organization.

3. Take the SHOBUKAN Dan examination (Based on the SHOBUKAN examination rules and regulations)
  - \*You can take the exam for higher Dan than you have.
  - \*You may not take the exam for a dan for which you do not have the required experience.
4. Examiner gives the SHOBUKAN Dan which matches your ability
  - \*There is possibility of being given lower level of Dan than you held in your former organization.
5. Register SHOBUKAN Dan
  - \*The registration fee of the Dan you converted and conversion fee up to the acquired Dan will be required.

ex.) If you have passed and held the 4th Dan of another organization for more than 4 years, you can take SHOBUKAN 5th Dan exam. In case you pass 5th Dan, you have to pay registration fee for 5th Dan and conversion fee of 1, 2, 3, 4 Dan. In case you get 3rd Dan, you have to pay registration fee for 3rd Dan and conversion fee of 1st and 2nd Dan.