

Ryukengan Ryukyu Kempo Karate and Kobudo

Procedure for Grading



This procedure details the grading method used at the Ryukengan Dojo. Mudansha gradings are held in March, June, September and December although Instructors may choose to offer special gradings at any time during the year. Yudansha Examinations are held once per year.

Rules

Pre-testing

All students are eligible for a pre-test with the examiner to ensure they are ready to test. The pre-test will provide the candidate with written feedback as to their current abilities.

Kata and Exercises

If you make a mistake you will be permitted up to three repeats of the kata or exercise before failing the test.

Weapons Kata

In addition to the above rule concerning mistakes, if you drop a weapon during a weapon kata performance you will automatically fail.

Pass Mark

Your performance will be scored by the judging panel. Their scores will be totalled and an overall mark will be calculated.

12 th Kyu – 6 th Kyu	Pass mark: 60%
6 th Kyu – 1 st Kyu	Pass mark: 65%
1 st Dan – 3 rd Dan	Pass mark: 70%
4 th Dan and above	Pass mark: 75%

Order of students

All students will take part in the test procedure, whether testing or not. The kata and exercises will be presented from lowest to highest rank present during the test.

Order of kata

As set out in the curriculum

Procedure

Test candidates will be lined up in reverse rank order – with the lowest ranks at the front of the dojo increasing to the highest ranks at the rear. As each rank group completes their testing they will be excused to watch the remainder of the examinations from the side of the dojo.

Results

The judges will total the scores and confirm the results with Senior Instructors before announcing any results. Kyu grade test results will be released as soon as certificates are completed and new belts are received.

Black Belt test results will be announced on the day of testing. Certificates will be issued once the probationary period of 12 months has elapsed, and all probationary goals have been achieved.

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Extra Hints

Arrive with plenty of time to warm up before the test.

During warm ups, concentrate on making sure your kata is as smooth as possible. It is best not to worry about all the corrections you have received in the days leading up to the test.

Keep in mind that the testers will be seated at the front of the dojo or testing area so choose your starting point carefully. Different kata have different space requirements and you don't want to run out of space during the test.

Required Fitness Levels (RFL)

The RFL component of the grade examination must be completed in one sitting. Candidates may take as long as necessary to complete their exercises (with the exception of the run component – which is timed). Candidates may rest in place during the exercise, but must not move away once they begin.

While the RFL tests candidate's basic fitness levels, the test is primarily a test of willpower to complete the given task.

The RFL for Yudansha tests will be undertaken separately from the main examination.

Students who fail to complete an RFL test will be eligible to retest within one month providing they successfully pass all other components of the examination.

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Basic criteria for Kata and Exercise judgement are the following:

Correct sequence of techniques. The form must be performed in the proper sequence.	*Pass / Fail	10%
Speed and rhythm control. If being counted, speed is measured by the response time to the count. Rhythm is measured by the motion of the group. If the kata is performed with no count, kiai, speed and rhythm are determined by the kata itself.	1 – 10	10%
Correct movement structure. Structural Integrity, Body Core control, Footwork	1 – 10	10%
Head and eyes movement. Proper head and eye movement for the kata.	1 – 10	10%
Positions. Positioning of hands and feet.	1 – 10	10%
Movements coordination. Timing of hands and feet, integration of weight into technique	1 – 10	10%
Balance. Balance during motion	1 – 10	10%
Kiai. Position, timing and quality of kiai	1 – 10	10%
Spirit. Clear demonstration of spirit and focus during kata	1 – 10	10%
Hesitation or halt. Hesitation or halting during performance of the kata	1 – 10	10%
	<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>

* As listed in the testing rules, candidates who exceed the minimum number of mistakes in the same kata or exercise will automatically fail their test regardless of scores accrued in other categories.