

DAN GRADING

Full 1st Kyu must be obtained before grading for 1st Dan.

The minimum period between 1st Kyu and 1st Dan grading is 6 months.

Written permission to take a Dan grading must be obtained from the student's senior club instructor.

Senior club instructors wishing to take higher Dan gradings must obtain written permission from a more senior KUGB instructor with whom they train on a regular basis.

Dan Grading Frequency

The minimum time periods between Dan gradings are:

- 1st Dan to 2nd Dan - 2 years
- 2nd Dan to 3rd Dan - 3 years
- 3rd Dan to 4th Dan - 4 years
- 4th Dan to 5th Dan - 5 years
- 5th Dan to 6th Dan - 8 years

There are two Special Dan Courses each year, and the time periods are related to these courses, e.g., a student passing 3rd Dan on the first course of the year could grade for 4th Dan on the first course of the year four years later.

To apply for permission to take 6th Dan, please write to the Chair of the Technical Committee at technicalcommittee@kugb.org and include your CV. You will then receive a letter advising you on how to proceed.

Permission will be determined by taking the following criteria into account:

- Number of years training
- Precedent – relating to the time-scales of other senior students
- Training record of Special Dan Courses, Black and Brown Belt Courses, Instructor Courses and other Special Courses
- Technical Qualifications – Referee, Instructor, Assessor
- Previous competition participation

Grades of 7th Dan and above are awarded by the organisation on the recommendation of the Technical Committee.

Dan Grading Re-Takes

Students who fail 1st or 2nd Dan gradings must wait a minimum of three months before re-taking the examination, unless a different period is specified by the examiner.

Students who fail 3rd Dan and above must wait until the next Special Dan Course before re-taking the examination.

Students who are required to re-take only the Kata or Kumite section of their Dan grading must do so within twelve months. After this period, the full grading must be re-taken.

Dan Grading Age Restrictions

There are no age restrictions for taking 1st or 2nd Dan. The minimum age for taking 3rd Dan is 21 years.

Protective Equipment

Gumshields and KUGB-approved white hand mitts are compulsory for the Kumite section of the examination. It is compulsory for females aged 12 years and over to wear a chest guard. Females under 12 may wear a chest guard at the discretion of their parent/guardian. It is compulsory for males aged 12 years and over to wear a groin guard. Males under 12 may wear a groin guard at the discretion of their parent/guardian.

Dan Grading Locations

Dan gradings may only be taken at specially approved courses, details of which are circulated to all KUGB clubs. They are also listed on the KUGB website and the KUGB app.

Transfer of Dan Grades to the KUGB from other Shotokan Associations

1st and 2nd Dan students transferring to the KUGB must retake their Dan grades within one year of joining the KUGB.

Students of 3rd Dan and above must train on a minimum of three Black and Brown Belt Courses or Special Dan Courses in order to integrate themselves into the KUGB syllabus and technical practices. They must make themselves known to the Lead of the Technical Committee, who will advise them on a grading date. They must produce their previous association's licence and record book.

Upon completing their Dan examination, the student will be given a grade appropriate to their KUGB standard, which will be ratified from the date of their grading with their previous association, where appropriate.

Grading Syllabus

Allowance will be made for candidates who are unable to perform certain techniques due to physical or other restrictions.

It must be emphasised that the KUGB Syllabus is intended as a reference to prepare students for their gradings and that the most important factor is the examinee's quality of performance.

GRADE	KIHON (BASICS)	KATA (SET FORM)	KUMITE (SPARRING)
	All begin from free-style kamae	(a) Candidate's choice (b) Examiner's choice	
1st Kyu to 1st Dan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kizami tsuki, oi tsuki, gyaku tsuki 2. Mae geri, oi tsuki, gyaku tsuki 3. Yoko geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki 4. Mawashi geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki 5. Ushiro geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki 6. Mae geri, yoko geri, mawashi geri, ushiro geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki 7. Mae geri, oi tsuki, gyaku tsuki, step back gedan barai, gyaku tsuki, yoko geri, uraken, oi tsuki 8. Same leg, mae geri, yoko geri, ushiro geri 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Bassai Dai (b) Any Heian Kata 	<p>Jiyu Ippon Kumite <i>Right side only</i> attacking with jodan and chudan oi tsuki, chudan mae geri, chudan yoko geri, jodan mawashi geri and chudan ushiro geri</p> <p>Jiyu Kumite</p>
1st Dan to 2nd Dan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mae geri, oi tsuki, gyaku tsuki 2. Yoko geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki 3. Mawashi geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki 4. Ushiro geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki 5. Mae geri, same leg yoko geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki 6. Mae geri, same leg mawashi geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki 7. Mawashi geri, same leg yoko geri kekomi, uraken, gyaku tsuki 8. Mae geri, yoko geri, mawashi geri, ushiro geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Bassai Sho, Kanku Sho, Niju Shiho, Jitte or Tekki Nidan (b) Bassai Dai, Kanku Dai, Enpi, Jion or Hangetsu 	<p>Jiyu Ippon Kumite attacking with any five single, unannounced techniques</p> <p>Jiyu Kumite</p>

	<p>9. Mawashi geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki, step back gedan nagashi uke, gyaku tsuki, ushiro geri, uraken, oi tsuki</p> <p>10. Same leg, mae geri, yoko geri, ushiro geri, mawashi geri</p>		
2nd Dan to 3rd Dan	<p>Any 1st or 2nd Dan combinations</p> <p><i>Plus</i></p> <p>Kizami tsuki, gyaku tsuki, mawashi geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki, step back gedan barai, gyaku tsuki, rear leg mae geri and step back, ushiro geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki</p>	<p>(a) Sochin, Unsu, Gankaku, Chinte or Goju Shiho Sho</p> <p>(b) Bassai Sho, Kanku Sho, Niju Shiho, Jitte or Tekki Nidan</p>	<p>Kaishi Ippon Kumite <i>Right side only</i> the same pre-arranged attacks as for 1st Dan grading</p> <p>Jiyu Kumite</p>
3rd Dan to 4th Dan	<p>Any 1st or 2nd Dan combinations</p> <p><i>Plus</i></p> <p>Kizami tsuki, oi tsuki, gyaku tsuki, nihon tsuki, step back and with same arm block age uke, soto uke, gedan barai, uchi uke, kizami tsuki, gyaku tsuki, four turning gyaku tsuki attacks, turn behind with haito uchi, mawashi geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki, back leg mae geri and step back, yoko geri keage to side and step back, mawashi geri, ushiro geri, uraken, gyaku tsuki</p>	<p>(a) Meikyo, Jiin, Wankan, Tekki Sandan or Goju Shiho Dai</p> <p>(b) Sochin, Unsu, Gankaku, Chinte or Goju Shiho Sho</p>	<p>Kaishi Ippon Kumite attacking with any five single, unannounced techniques</p> <p>Demonstration of three favourite Kumite tactics</p> <p>Jiyu Kumite</p>

<p>4th Dan to 5th Dan</p>	<p>As previous grading</p> <p><i>Plus</i></p> <p>A written Karate CV and 1500 – 2000 words thesis on any aspect of Karate-Do</p>	<p>(a) Any Kata from Shodan syllabus and above</p> <p>(b) One or more Kata from Sandan syllabus and above</p> <p>Demonstration of applications from performed Kata will be requested.</p>	<p>As previous grading</p>
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<p>5th Dan to 6th Dan</p>	<p>As previous grading</p> <p><i>Plus</i></p> <p>A written Karate CV and 2000 words and above thesis on any aspect of Karate-Do (different to above)</p>	<p>As previous grading</p>	<p>As previous grading</p>
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