



JUDO SYLLABUS

DAN GRADE

MARCH 2010

Definition of Dan Grade

A Dan grade is defined as someone who has completed the syllabus of requirements that would show a basic understanding of Judo, and is now ready to undertake advanced learning.

Basic Requirements of a Dan Grade

Candidates for Dan grade should be examined on the basis of personality, attitude, acquirement of Judo spirit, the extent of their understanding of Judo, the practical application of Judo in their everyday life as well as their contribution to Judo.

In addition, to consider the practical application of techniques, consideration of their views on the theory as well as the mechanics and efficiencies of techniques will be taken.

Length of training time should be considered, however, it is not unreasonable for a degree of flexibility to be applied in appropriate and exceptional circumstances.

Where a character deviates from judo spirit the person will not be promoted irrespective of other merit.

Minimum Ages for Consideration of Dan Grade

1 st Dan	14 years
2 nd Dan	17 years
3 rd Dan	18 years
4 th Dan	19 years
5 th Dan	21 years
6 th Dan	27 years
7 th Dan	33 years
8 th Dan	42 years

Note: On attainment of age 16 a 1st Dan will revert to 3rd Kyu for re-grading based upon the increase in size of Senior Judoka.

Methods of Assessment

It is acceptable for an assessment to be carried out by all or any of the following methods:

- Practical application
- Written testing
- Verbal testing

Areas of Assessment

- Shiai – Contest

A candidate can demonstrate an ability in Shiai by way of, wins in competition or tournament at varying level, but not withstanding the spirit in which said candidate participates

They will demonstrate a working knowledge of the rules and their application and understand the reasoning behind banned or illegal techniques.

- Kata – Forms

Nage-No-Kata – Form of Throws

Katame-No-Kata – Form of Groundwork or Grappling

Ju-No-kata – Form of Gentleness

Kime-No-Kata – Form of Decision

Gonosen-No-Kata – Forms of Counter

Koshiki-No-Kata – Form of Antique

Itsutsu-No-Kata – Forms of Five

- Instruction / Coaching

A candidate can demonstrate an ability in Instruction / Coaching by teaching or coaching at/or running classes and/or courses and/or by running a club and/or organisation.

They will demonstrate a working knowledge of the rules and their application and understand the reasoning behind banned or illegal techniques.

- Refereeing

A candidate can demonstrate an ability in Refereeing by acting as a referee and/or corner judge at competitions or tournaments at varying levels.

They will demonstrate a working knowledge of the rules and their application and understand the reasoning behind banned or illegal techniques.

- Contribution to the Development of Judo

This will be evaluated by what is considered to be a “definite contribution to the development of Judo” and could include but would not be restricted to, the running of a club or organisation, efforts made to develop Judo to a minority group etc...

Definition of Grade

Notwithstanding any of the above this should offer a guide as to grade applicable up to 5th Dan.

2nd Dan – A second Dan candidate will have by now demonstrated a greater understanding of the mechanics of Judo. Disturbance of Uki's balance comes from Tori's body movement, while blending with the other elements of a technique. Control should now begin to be evident sufficient to flow from one technique to another somewhat naturally.

Candidates at this level should comfortably be able to teach / coach a group of students of varying ability up to 1st Kyu level. They should be using a variety of methods to comfortably communicate with their students and should be able to offer constructive criticism and feedback.

Kata should, as a minimum, include both Nage-No-Kata and Katame-No-Kata, which should be performed to a high level of competency.

A candidate should be comfortable in acting as a Club Level Referee.

Their Bushido virtue should now represent Respect

3rd Dan – A third Dan candidate should now be blending naturally from one technique to another and should be using initiative to consider alternative methods of applying techniques that would apply to different Uki's. A greater understanding of the mechanics behind techniques should be evident to an extent that they should be able to communicate these findings to other Judoka.

Teaching and coaching students up to 1st Dan level should be comfortable and by now they should be able to deal with critical questioning from students somewhat comfortably. They should also feel somewhat comfortable in supervising and guiding other instructors / coaches up to 2nd Dan. They are by now probably running a club of their own or have significant responsibility within a club

Kata should now include at least one other of either Ju-No-Kata or Kime-No-Kata or Gonosen-No-Kata..

As a referee the candidate should now be comfortable up to County Level and should have a strong understanding of when a technique could become dangerous and why certain techniques may be banned at certain levels.

Their Bushido virtue should now represent Sacrifice

4th Dan – A candidate being considered at this level should now show effortless flow to technique and will be comfortably adapting techniques. Using initiative they should be leading uki with strong balance and posture while beginning to show evidence of natural or effortless power.

Students will be taught and coached up to 2nd Dan with competency. The candidate will be running a club of their own and will be responsible for a member achieving a grade of 1st Dan.

Kata will now include one further set of the aforementioned kata or equivalent alternatives.

The candidate will now be competent sufficiently to act as an Area Referee. They should be comfortable in handling disputes and resolving them satisfactorily and within the rules and regulations.

Their Bushido virtue should now represent Duty

5th Dan – The candidate should by now demonstrate natural flow and effortless power along with strong posture and balance. This should lead to dominance over uki, both physically and mentally. Techniques should show progressive and controlled power.

A candidate at this level should be certainly senior to at least two 2nd Dan students who have been taught or coached by them. It is fair to assume that other lower grade students are showing significant potential and will be teaching / coaching students of the candidate.

Teaching / Coaching students up to 3rd Dan will be extremely comfortable.

At this level, the candidate will be refereeing at National Level or above.

Their Bushido virtue should represent Duty

6th Dan & Above – A candidate at this level must by now demonstrate that they have completed advanced learning and have the maturity to understand that with knowledge comes great power yet he/she should remain humble. They will carry a definite air of confidence without brashness.

Their Bushido virtue will represent Humility

For all judoka actively competing, results from local, national and international competition or tournaments may be used in assessment of grade. It is acceptable that a successful competition judoka, may perform weaker in another area unrelated to shiai. In other words, they should maintain an aptitude for refereeing as this is a related activity but may be less strong in areas such as Teaching/Coaching or Kata.

In any event, it is reasonable to accept that certain people will have a stronger aptitude toward certain areas than others and as such this can be reflected in consideration of a promotion of Dan. In the event of a deficiency in one subject area sound reasoning must be provided as to how this has been made up in other areas.

Other Criteria for Consideration of Promotion

It is acceptable that promotion be granted in recognition of a judoka's contribution to the development of judo alone. However, as a rule this would be limited to once prior to 6th Dan and would typically be limited to one rank. In such a circumstance it must be evidenced that the person is unable to demonstrate ability in any other way and will be subject to the following periods of service / training.

2nd Dan – 7 years for promotion to 3rd Dan
3rd Dan – 8 years for promotion to 4th Dan
4th Dan – 9 years for promotion to 5th Dan
5th Dan – 10 years for promotion to 6th Dan

While it is a rule that promotion is granted one by one, under exceptional circumstances it may be allowed to skip over a Dan. In such an event the combined service for both grades should be applied, e.g. for a 2nd Dan to be considered for promotion to 4th Dan a total service is required at 2nd Dan of 15 years.

If an instructor or coach has demonstrated their skill by passing on knowledge to others it is acceptable that they are promoted as a result of progression of their students. Consideration should be given as to whether the candidate is 'blocking' progression of his or her students. Clearly careful consideration should be given to this as it is entirely reasonable that a talented student of the candidate may have progressed for reasons other than the candidates own abilities as a teacher / coach.

For promotions of 6th Dan and above it is accepted that suitably qualified persons of a higher grade are scarce and as such a decision to promote can be agreed by committee of at least three Dan grades of 3 grades below the proposed grade, one of which being no more than 2 grades below. E.g. for grading to 6th Dan the panel must be made up of at least two 3rd Dan and one 4th Dan.

Record Keeping

It is imperative records are maintained of grades awarded and appropriate documentation must be retained by Bushido Budo Kai.

This documentation must include dates and venues of grading examination as well as a list of those present. There must be detailed reasoning recorded for all promotions of Dan and signatures of those involved in the grading process must be present.

For 1st to 3rd Dan – 1 signature required at least 2 grades higher
For 4th and 5th Dan – 2 signatures required at least 1 grade higher
For 6th Dan and above – 3 signatures required subject to above criteria

Basis of Criteria

The above criteria has been based broadly on our interpretation of the guidelines from the Kodokan Judo Institute, Japan, formulated August 1st 1957 and most recently revised June 14th 1999, as well as those from various other governing bodies and organisations.