

Criteria for Awarding Dan Grades: 'Fuyo Kijun'
(Guidelines for Assessing Pass-Fail in Promotion Examinations)

At a Kendo Dan examination, examiners evaluate candidates for promotion for each Dan grade based on evidence of an appropriate level of training, and the degree of technical proficiency and stability acquired through the course of their study.

- ① The central concern for evaluation in examinations for the grades of Shodan, 2-Dan and 3-Dan is the level of 'Kihon' (basic techniques) demonstrated by the examinee. The examiner assesses whether the candidate has learnt and correctly acquired the basic Kendo skills.
- ② The central concern for evaluation in examinations for the grades of 4-Dan and 5-Dan is the level of basic Kendo techniques and advanced techniques (Kihon and Oyo). The examiner assesses whether the candidate has fully acquired and able to utilize basic and advanced Kendo skills.
- ③ The central concern for evaluation in examinations for the grades of 6-Dan and 7-Dan is the ability to demonstrate 'Jiri' (technique and theory). Besides the basic and advanced Kendo techniques, the examiner assesses whether a candidate has acquired sufficient knowledge and understanding of Jiri, the techniques of Kendo accompanied with theory or principles.
- ④ The central concern for evaluation in examinations for the grades of 8-Dan and above is whether or not the candidate has reached the highest stage of Jiri referred to as 'Jiri-Itchi' (total integration of Ji and Ri). The candidate will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate a profound understanding of Jiri-Itchi in addition to the aforementioned points for 7-Dan and below.

Points for Observation (Chakugan-ten)

Each Dan examiner is required to make a decision after paying careful attention to the following points in accordance with the above criteria:

Shodan, 2-Dan, 3-Dan

- ① Chakuso and Reiho. The candidates appearance and whether they are correctly wearing the Kendo-gi and Hakama, and are holding the Shinai correctly (Chakuso); Appropriate manners and deportment (Reiho)
- ② Correct posture
- ③ Datotsu (strikes and thrusts) in accordance to the correct basic Kendo techniques
- ④ Strong spirit (Kisei).

4-Dan, 5-Dan

① Chakuso and Reiho. The candidates appearance and whether they are correctly wearing the Kendo-gi and Hakama, and are holding the Shinai correctly (Chakuso); Appropriate manners and deportment (Reiho) ② Correct posture ③ Datotsu (strikes and thrusts) in accordance to the correct basic Kendo techniques ④ Strong spirit (Kisei). ⑤ Level of proficiency acquired in advanced Kendo techniques ⑥ Level of mental and physical discipline demonstrated ⑦ Strategic skills to control and win a match.

6-Dan, 7-Dan 8-Dan and higher Dan

① Chakuso and Reiho. The candidates appearance and whether they are correctly wearing the Kendo-gi and Hakama, and are holding the Shinai correctly (Chakuso); Appropriate manners and deportment (Reiho) ② Correct posture ③ Datotsu (strikes and thrusts) in accordance to the correct basic Kendo techniques ④ Strong spirit (Kisei). ⑤ Level of proficiency acquired in advanced Kendo techniques ⑥ Level of mental and physical discipline demonstrated ⑦ Strategic skills to control and win a match. ⑧ Understanding of 'Riai' (The candidate must be able to execute Waza and move in a way that is rational and purposeful) ⑨ 'Fukaku' and 'Hinkaku' (Demonstrating one's own style which is dignified and elegant.)

The examiners are expected to make their evaluations and final decisions based on the abovementioned criteria within the prescribed examination time