

KATA REQUIREMENTS FOR DAN GRADING

Kata examinations do not need to be carried out at the same time as skills assessments

Dan Grade Promotions from 1st January 2026

Grade	Kata Required	Certification Level	
		Competitive	Technical
1st Dan	Nage-no-kata	Level 1	Level 2
2nd Dan	Katame-no-kata	Level 1	Level 2
3rd Dan	Ju-no-kata	Level 1	Level 2
4th Dan	Kime-no-kata	Level 1	Level 2
5th Dan	Kodokan Goshin-jutsu	Level 1	Level 2

For 6th Dan, in addition to the five kata above, a minimum BJA Level 1 certificate in Koshiki-no-kata will be required as proof of kata knowledge.

The Kata Commission policy is that kata examinations ideally should not be taken on the same day as participating in a kata coaching course. However, it is recognised that experienced judoka may be able to reach Level 1 standard in one day.

Attendance certificates will not exempt judoka from the kata requirements for promotion to and within the Dan grades.

Level 1 – 60% pass mark

- Very much an entry level pass
- Candidates need to show:
 - The correct techniques
 - In the correct order
 - With technical competence
 - Including the 'kata protocol' elements
- Most candidates who have prepared properly for the assessment – including attending a relevant BJA Kata Course – should pass Level 1

Level 2 – 65% pass mark

- Can be taken 6 months after the Level 1 pass
- Candidates should now show enhanced:
 - Skill in technique execution
 - Timing and opportunity exploitation
 - Smoothness and fluidity
 - Coordination between *tori* and *uke*
- Fast-tracking directly to Level 2 is only allowed in exceptional cases and requires evaluation by a Senior Kata Examiner or higher

Fees

There is no BJA fee to take the examination, although the Examiner may charge their own fee to cover expenses etc. There is a BJA fee of £10 required to register the examination pass and to issue a BJA certificate.