

GUIDE FOR BJA DAN GRADE EVALUATION OF COMPETITIVE SKILLS AND TECHNICAL EXAM

ISSUED 1ST JULY 2025

Basis

The following elements will form the basis of the evaluation:

- Understanding of the fundamentals of the technique being demonstrated
- For *nage-waza*: must demonstrate an understanding of correct *kumi-kata*, *kuzushi*, *tsukuri*, *kake* and *kime*
- For *katame-waza*: must display and/or understand safety, control, movement and balance
- Posture, balance and body control
- Movement and transition between techniques

Guidelines

The marking criteria for each individual technique in Sections 1 and 2 Fundamental Skills and Sections 3, 4 and 5 Performance Skills for each dan grade exam are shown in the table below. The examiner awards marks in increments of ONE (1) based on their own judgment against these guidelines. In both *nage-waza* and *katame-waza*, *uke* must work with *tori* to provide the correct stance or reaction for the application of the technique, in particular in *katame-waza*, attempting to escape, allowing *tori* to demonstrate the correct response.

All demonstrations within Sections 1 and 2, Fundamental Skills, should be to the Kodokan canonical form and use traditional grips. *Tori* should clearly demonstrate understanding of the key elements required. Variations of techniques and unorthodox grips are permitted within Sections 3, 4 and 5 Performance Skills, in accordance with the candidate's personal choice. The candidate should first discuss these with the examiner to explain the naming of the technique(s) and rationale for the chosen variation.

Marking Criteria for BJA Dan Grade Examinations		
Score	Summary	Criteria
10	Excellent	Demonstrates a close-to-perfect or perfect execution
9	Very good	Well-executed technique with only minor inaccuracies
8	Good	Generally well-executed technique with minor area(s) for improvement
7	Pass	Competently executed technique that meets all basic expectations
6	Nearly	Lacking effective application of <i>kuzushi</i> , <i>tsukuri</i> , <i>kake</i> or core elements
5	Insufficient	Technical errors and lack of skill compromising the performance
4	Fairly Poor	Numerous significant inaccuracies, poorly performed
3	Poor	Completely incorrect movements within the technique
2	Very Poor	Numerous major and minor inaccuracies, unrecognisable movements and technique, significant lack of skill
1	Extremely Poor	Fundamental lack of understanding; technique highly flawed, reflecting minimal skill
0	Totally Wrong	Omitted technique or totally unrelated technique