Dai Nippon Kyudo Kai

Yosoku Assessment Standards - 2026

Range	Taihai	Hassetsu	Notes/parameters/disqualifiers
Gokyu	Student can enter and leave the dojo using a very basic method.	Demonstrated confidence at the makiwara. Can nock and shoot an arrow in a basic way on the shooting range (under 16 years of age).	The student owns a uniform and can shoot an arrow with a rudimentary hassetsu.
Yonkyu	Student can manage entry and exit the dojo in a general manner.	Student is more stable with the 8 basic movements, and two arrows fly towards the target.	Progress is being made. Student can hold and shoot two arrows using a basic method.
Sankyu	Entering and leaving the dojo is smoother and more confident.	Student can advance in Hassetsu with few mistakes (3-4). Yumi and Ya should generally remain on the same plane during the Taihai.	Progress has continued. Student can recognize the difference between hiya (first arrow) and otoya (second arrow).
Nikyu	Student shows progress from sankyu with minimal errors and improved Taihai.	Student can perform Hassetsu with a couple errors. They can hold the bow in toriyumi no shisei correctly and can hold the bow and arrows stay together. Student can move and turn better, nock the arrow, perform hozuke (arrow touching the cheek), and return the bow after shooting (yudaoshi).	Notable progress is shown. *Maintenance* : Hazu (Nock) and Yanone (tip) can be affixed onto Ya (arrow).
Ikkyu	Student can perform all Taihai positions (Omae , etc.) with correct timing and coordination and in harmony with the group.	The archer's form and movements are mostly correct. A slight sway or tremor of the body during the hanare or zanshin does not affect the archer's performance. If the arrow falls, the archer must demonstrate the correct shitsu recovery technique. The remaining arrow will be evaluated.	If both arrows fall, the archer will be asked to shoot another. If all three fall, the test fails. The arrow cannot fall below the mouth (kuchiwari) or above the base of the nose. The student must be in-step with the other archers. *Maintenance* : You can tie the Tsuru knot correctly. Student owns Kake.
Shodan*	Movement, posture, and form are generally correct. Demonstrates the ability to receive instructions and solve problems.	The hassetsu is generally correct and the movements are fluid. The ashibumi and dozokuri are stable. The tenouchi is practically complete. Student strives for a full kai and possesses energetic zanshin. The yudaoshi does not exhibit excessive deformity. The arrows should impact within the azuchi (range of 28 meters).	The slippage of the glove notch (yamakura ochi) does not affect the archer. If one arrow falls, the archer must demonstrate a proper recovery of the shitsu. If both arrows fall, it will be considered a fail. Maintains 3 second kai. *Maintenance* : Student can make and repair nakajikake.

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Nidan *	Student can perform Taihai with good order. Footwork is fluid and can perform ikasu in zasha.	Shows progress from shodan: the three and five crosses are present. Attempts to stretch (nobi) in 4-second kai and shows continuity of energy and vigor (kiryoku). Hanare and zanshin form is good. The arrows should not show misalignment when landing together on the azuchi (yadokoro).	A falling arrow will result in failure. Student cannot touch the exit threshold when leaving. If one arrow hits the mato and the other the maku (target house curtain), it is not considered yadokoro at this level. *Maintenance:* Student can repair loose or detached feathers from Ya. Student owns Yumi and Ya.
Sandán**	The breathing is coordinated. Taihai is correct.	The handling of the tenouchi, the length of the arrow at the cheek, the curvature of the right wrist, and the string at the chest must be correct. Furthermore, the target position relative to the bow (matotsuke) is appropriate for this rank. Five seconds of kai with half yugaeri and 1 hit must be achieved.	The advantages include a powerful opening with hanare and shot (yazei) and zanshin with kiai (spirit). One arrow must hit Mato: no shitsu. The remaining arrow cannot hit Matoba Maku.
Yondan**	The Taihai is correct and there is an attempt to perform Taihai with breathing.	Hassetsu is coordinated with breathing. The three and five crosses are mostly correct, and the hikiwaki movements are fluid. The tenouchi is executed well, and the hanare and zanshin demonstrate the results of extensive training. A kimono must be worn with performance of hadanugi or tasuki sabaki. Tasuki may remain worn upon exit.	Advantages include dynamic shooting with nobiai and tsumeai. Disadvantages include issues such as a lack of full yugaeri, or significant bow drop in hanare due to grip. An arrow must hit the target. Shitsu is not permitted. (Yondan may apply for the rank of assistant instructor (Jokyo if a dojo cho.) Minimum age: 30 years.
Godan***	The behavior and attitude are calm. Taihai is coordinated with breathing.	The three and five crosses are not broken. The transition (ukewatashi) to daisan is performed correctly, expanding from the vertical line, and the movement from hikiwaki to kai is fluid. A deep and stable kai of 5 seconds must be performed. A complete tsumeai and nobiai, a sharp hanare, a clear and serene tsurune, and a complete and powerful zanshin. Hadanuge/ Hadaire or tasuki sabaki with removal must be performed.	Disadvantages include problems with the yugaeri or a bow drop of more than two fingers. Both arrows must hit the target. It is necessary to own and take the exam with a bamboo bow (take yumi) and bamboo arrows (take ya). Minimum age: 35 years. **RENSHI** - The candidate must have a firm character and be able to instruct all kinds of persons. Furthermore, they must demonstrate progress at the previous levels. *They only perform mochimato sharei*. An oral exam and sufficient class hours are required. **KOSHI** : Of firm character and with specialized technical knowledge for individual rehabilitation. Focuses on kyujutsu and competitions. P*erforms Taihai and Hassetsu* . Ronbun (written technical exam).

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Rokudan	The formal movement has reached the stage of excellence.	The shooting form (Shakei) and the shooting technique (Shajitsu) have reached excellence. The shooting shows a high level of refinement (Shahin).	**KYOSHI** – The instructor must possess good character, technical skill, and sound judgment, as well as erudition and training, which are necessary requirements for leadership in Kyudo. Furthermore, the candidate's eligibility must be demonstrated through meritorious service with a considerable number of teaching hours. The candidate must hold the title of Renshi. *They must perform Hitosumato Sharei.* **SHUSHI** : Of firm character and with highly specialized technical knowledge for the rehabilitation of individuals. *Only taihai and hassetsu* . Ronbun. Minimum age 40.
Nandan	Formal movements are naturally evident.	The shooting form (Shakei) and shooting technique (Shajitsu) are naturally manifested in the body. The shooting has reached a high level of refinement (Shahin) and mastery.	**KYOSHI** - It is essential to possess excellent character, technical skill, and sound judgment, as well as erudition and training. Furthermore, the candidate's eligibility must be demonstrated through meritorious service and ownership of a dojo. The candidate must hold the title of Kyoshi. *They must perform Yawatashi Sharei with kaizoe* (assistants). **SHUSHI** - Expert technician, skilled in basic and advanced shooting, with in-depth knowledge of specific techniques. Ronbun. Minimum age 50 years.
Hachidan	Perfection of movement.	There must be perfection in technique, the highest level of refinement (Shahin) and the embodiment of skill in the art of shooting.	**HANSHI** - The candidate must demonstrate the highest level of conduct, dignity, and perfection, along with the utmost discernment. They must hold the title of Kyoshi. They must supervise several kyudo groups. **TATSHUSHI** - Expert technician, masters basic and advanced shooting and has cultivated an understanding of specific and detailed techniques. Ronbun. Minimum age 60 years.
Kudan	The truth of Kyudo is transparent.	The truth of Kyudo is transparent.	The truth of Kyudo is transparent.
Judan	The truth of Kyudo is eternal.	The goodness of Kyudo is eternal.	The beauty of Kyudo is eternal.

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Notes - In order to improve access and equity for all members, including developing countries, the following policy has been recommended:
All Shodan exams will include a written test. Additionally, Renshi and Koshi will have an oral exam. The minimum duration of examinations for Yudansha ranks is one year up to Sandan. Yondan = 2 years; Godan and above, 3 years. Kyu level examinations (Sandan and above) are conducted under the supervision of a dojo instructor at any time.
*The Shodan and Nidan tests can be performed on a pre-recorded video or in person.
**Sandan and Yondan tests: an exam must be in person or conducted "live" on Zoom or another similar medium
***Godan and above: in person only.

Test weight:
Shodan-Taihai 33%, Hassetsu 33%, written 34% (score of 80% or higher to pass, unless you do not meet the parameters)
Nidan-Taihai 35%, Hassetsu 35%, written 30% (score of 85% or higher to pass, unless parameters are not met)
Sandan-Taihai 38%, Hassetsu 38%, written 22% (90% score or more to pass, unless parameters are not met)
Yondan - Taihai 41%, Hassetsu 41%, written 18% (score of 92% or higher, unless parameters are not met)
Godan/Renshi/koshi- Taihai- 42%, Hassetsu 42%, written/verbal 16% (score of 95% or higher, unless parameters are not met)
Rokudan and above: Taihai-44%, Hassetsu 44%, written/verbal 12% (score of 98% or higher, unless it does not meet the parameters)

Examinees/Judges
Shodan-Nidan= 2 Renshi/Koshi or higher
Sandan-Yondan= 3 Renshi/Koshi and above
Godan and above = 5 Kyoshi or Shushi and above (judges must have a higher rank/title than the examinee)