

Testing Requirements for Kendo

Kyuu Level Testing

Basic Strikes (Kote, Men, and Dou)
Kiri Kaeshi (optional)
Jitsugi (matches)
No Kata
3 Months at Current Rank

Ikkyuu Level Testing

Kiri Kaeshi (optional)
Jitsugi (matches)
Written Test
Kata 1-3
3 Months at Current Rank

Shodan Level Testing

Jitsugi (matches)
Written Test
Kata 1-5
3 Months at Ikyuu
Age 14

Nidan Level Testing

Jitsugi (matches)
Written Test
Kata 1-7
1 Year at Shodan

Sandan to Godan Level Testing*

Jitsugi (matches)
Written Test
Kata 1-7 and Kodachi Kata 1-3

Rokudan to Nanadan Level Testing*

Jitsugi (matches)
Written & Refereeing Test
Kata 1-7 and Kodachi Kata 1-3

Hachidan Level Testing

Jitsugi (matches)
Written Test & Thesis
Kata 1-7 and Kodachi Kata 1-3
10 Years at Nanadan
Age 46

Kata Requirement Summary:

Ikkyuu	1-3
Shodan	1-5
Nidan	1-7
Sandan and Up	1-7 + Kodachi Kata 1-3

Time* Requirement Summary:

Kyuu Ranks and Shodan	3 Months
Nidan	1 Year
Sandan	2 Years
Yondan	3 Year
Godan	4 Years
Rokudan	5 Years
Nanadan	6 Years
Hachidan	10 Years

*Since Last Test

Note: special allowances are made for those applying for roku-hachidan age 60 and older.

Age Requirements:

Age 14+	Shodan
Age 46+	Hachidan

Shogo Rank Requirements:

Renshi

Rank of Rokudan
Test of Refereeing Ability

Kyoushi

Rank of Nanadan*
Test of Instructional Ability & Experience

Hanshi

Only awarded to hachidan* kyoushi older than 55 with exceptional knowledge of kendo.

*Exceptions are made, but all shogo are awarded only to those ranked rokudan and higher.

*See Time Requirements