



The British Wadokai Karate-do Federation
Grading Protocols Policy
Correct Protocols and Formalities for a British Wadokai Kyū & Yūdan Shinsa
Information for Examiners and Students

EXAMINERS

All Examiners MUST:

- ✚ Hold an up to date BWK Licence.*
- ✚ Hold the required Yūdansha level for grade assessment.
- ✚ Hold an up to date 'Examiner's Certificate' (Direct/Full Membership) issued by the President.*
- ✚ Attend the regular 'BWK Standardisation Courses' and 'Examiners Courses' held regularly throughout the year (geographically permitting).
- ✚ Attend any periodical BWK Grading Courses (geographically permitting). NB: 1-Day Courses are held in BWK-UK. (Courses for Yūdan Assessors are generally held during BWK Yūdan Gradings and on other occasions throughout the year). Please refer to the Date Section for further details.
- ✚ Use a British Wadokai Examiner's Stamp (or signature) to make official the promotion within a graded student's Licence.
- ✚ Retain all Examination Sheets to assist with Student Progress Reports, etc.

***It is the SOLE RESPONSIBILITY of the relevant Instructor/Assistant Instructor to ensure validity to these requirements.**

NB: 'Instructor' status and 'Examiner' status are separate qualifications/titles and must be achieved independently. Failure to attend the regular BWK Standardisation Courses *may* result in loss of grading powers.

Instructor Levels

- ✚ Junior Assistant Instructor (age 14-17, 3rd Kyū & over).
- ✚ Assistant Instructor (age 18+); Club Instructor Insurances are included in valid BWK Licence; as long as the individual has 'registered' as a BWK Instructor.
- ✚ Senior Assistant Instructor (age 18+, Insured, CRB, 1st Aid, 1st Kyū & over); Club Instructor Insurance included in valid BWK Licence; as long as the individual is 'registered' as a BWK Instructor.
- ✚ Instructor (age 18+, Insured, CRB, 1st Aid, 1st Dan & over); Club Instructor Insurance included in valid BWK Licence; as long as the individual is 'registered' as a BWK Instructor.

- ✚ Senior Instructor (age 18+, Insured, CRB, 1st Aid, 3rd Dan & over) - *Instructor of Instructors*. Club Instructor Insurance included in valid BWK Licence; as long as the individual is 'registered' as a BWK Instructor.

Examiner Levels

Yūdansa, once qualified through attendance of the British Wadokai Standardisation Courses, may grade up to & including the following levels.

1. Level 1; allows the examiner to grade up to 6th Kyu
2. Level 2; up to 3rd Kyū
3. Level 3; up to 1st Kyū
4. Level 4; entitlements are split into segments: Level 4a up to Shodan, 4b up to Nidan, 4c up to Sandan, etc.
5. Level 5; is reserved for the BWK President/Chief Instructor.

About the implications regarding examining during a Môn system grading.

Each Môn grading will be charged at the 'standardised' £5 at the time of grading/assessment and *must* be conducted by the same examiner all the way through to the final Môn, unless previous arrangements have been made. Each Môn promotion must be accompanied by the student's 'present' belt including a black stripe for Sho-Môn and two black stripes added for Ni-Môn, placed on each side of the obi. Only when all three parts of the Môn have been completed the student may be awarded with his new belt and certificate. The final payment of £5 for the 3rd Môn would then equate to £15, which is the cost of the full British Wadokai Kyū grade. The time interval for the 3rd Môn must equate to **NO LESS** than the official three month time-lapse between Kyū gradings.

All grades will be registered within BWK.

The relevant Grading Examiner must retain all Kyū Grade Sheets; a copy *may* be sent to the BWK Licence Officer when completed (email/post).

Kyū grade 'confirmed' registrations will be made upon the BWK Licence Renewal.

All BWK Yūdan gradings will be conducted by the BWK President, Gary E Swift (8th Dan) Kyoshi.

Official intervals/minimum training requirements for Kyu Grades.

Beginner to 9th Kyū = Minimum 6 Weeks training duration.

Kyū grade duration between each rank from 9th Kyu to 1st Kyu = Minimum 3 Months duration with a minimum of 12 Training Sessions at a Fully Registered BWK Club.

Mon grade duration between each Môn from 9th Kyu to 1st Kyu = Minimum 1 Month duration with a minimum of 6 Training Sessions at a Fully Registered BWK Club.

A BWK Yūdan Assessment Panel (YAP) is available to all Members.

All Yūdan Shinsa:

- ✚ Will be charged per student prior to grading. See Charges.
- ✚ Will be charged for Registration. See Charges.
- ✚ Yūdan Gradings will be conducted privately. Only people involved, or have been previously invited by the BWK President, may attend.
- ✚ All applicants for Gradings must hold an up to date BWK Licence.
- ✚ All applicants for Gradings of Sandan must be registered (and insured) as an Instructor/Assistant Instructor of a regular Dojo.

- ✚ All applicants for Gradings of Yodan, and above, must be registered (and insured) as a Main Instructor of a regular Dojo.
- ✚ All Senior Yūdansha will be judged & marked for a pass as: 82% (and above) Practical. 82% (and above) Written.
- ✚ All Junior Yūdansha. If the applicant is classified as a junior, which is considered to be aged from 10 to 17, he may be awarded a senior level if the senior scores have been achieved (see subsection (g) above). However if a 'senior' score has not been achieved a 'Junior Yūdansha' (Shodan-ho/Jido-Shodan) pass will be accepted if scored for a pass of: 72% (and above) Practical. 72% (and above) Written.*
- ✚ All Examiners, intending to be part of the BWK Yūdan Assessment Panel, must wear the appropriate Judges & Examiners attire (blazer, tie, etc.) or traditional Wado Karate-gi.
- ✚ A Regional YAP Committee Meeting may be organised and/or convened, at any time, for the discussion, if necessary, for the registration-acceptance of new members joining from outside organisations already graded from Shodan.

***NB: Junior Yūdansha will not be granted grading powers or advancement opportunities until reassessment to full Shodan/Nidan has been achieved.**

Yūdansha Applicants:

The student's MAIN INSTRUCTOR will issue, to the eligible member, a 'Yūdan Shinsa Application Form'.

Official intervals/minimum training requirements/guidelines for Yūdan applicants:

1. SHODAN: 52 BWK DOJO TRAINING SESSIONS = 78 Training Hours. From 1st Kyū to 1st Dan. (1st Kyū to 1st Dan = 9 months). Must have attended 1 of each Part 1, 2, 3 and 4 Standardisation Course*. Minimum age 10.
2. NIDAN: 208 BWK DOJO TRAINING SESSIONS = 312 Training Hours. From 1st Dan to 2nd Dan. (1st Dan to 2nd Dan = 18 months). Must have attended 1 of each Part 1, 2, 3 and 4 Standardisation Course*. Minimum age 12.
3. SANDAN: 312 BWK DOJO TRAINING SESSIONS = 468 Training Hours. From 2nd Dan to 3rd Dan. Must have attended 3 of each Part 1, 2, 3 and 4 Standardisation Course*. Minimum age 18. **
4. YODAN: From 3rd Dan to 4th Dan = 4 of each Part 1, 2, 3 and 4 BWK Standardisation Course*. **
5. GODAN: From 4th Dan to 5th Dan = 5 of each Part 1, 2, 3 and 4 BWK Standardisation Course*. ***
6. ROKUDAN: From 5th Dan to 6th Dan = 6 of each Part 1, 2, 3 and 4 BWK Standardisation Course*. ***
7. SHICHIDAN: From 6th Dan to 7th Dan = 7 of each Part 1, 2, 3 and 4 BWK Standardisation Course*. ***
8. HACHIDAN: From 7th Dan to 8th Dan = 8 of each Part 1, 2, 3, and 4 BWK Standardisation Course*. ***

The British Wadokai Chief Instructor/Examiner may award grades at any time, depending on individual circumstances, such as dedication and loyalty, etc.

* Standardisation, Advancement and Technical Courses. In the event that these Courses are considered 'geographically impractical' a Regional Chief Instructor may be delegated to oversee these standards with the implementation of 'Regional Standardisation Courses'. However, they themselves must follow the strict technical requirements as required by the British Wadokai Technical Committee; and must attend ALL the available Standardisation Courses to qualify as 'Regional Chief Instructors'. Advancement Courses will equate to two

to one (for example, 2 Advancement Courses equates to one Standardisation Course for Yūdan grading purposes).

** The grade of Sandan (or above) is reserved as 'Teaching Rank'. All members who wish to pursue the rank of Sandan and/or above must have (or intend to have) a regular Dojo facility at which to teach from.

*** There are no gradings, at present, above 8th Dan within BWK. All applications for promotion up to and including 8th Dan may be presented through the normal channels (i.e. BWK President or BWK General Secretary).

The grade syllabus of 4th Dan and above was structured for BWK Members who may have not have necessarily trained, and/or graded, through the normal procedures of the full British Wadokai Grade Syllabus of 1st Dan to 3rd Dan. This process was introduced due to members from outside organisations (*not connected with Sensei Tatsuo Suzuki Hanshi*) joining BWK with already established Yūdan ranks from their previous affiliations, etc. There are no practical gradings for BWK Full Members who have completed/passed all BWK Yūdan grades from 1st to 3rd Dan. However, BWK *may* accept 'special conditions' for Yūdan application of 4th Dan & above from British Wadokai memberships. The BWK Chief Instructor also reserves the right to award and promote any individual, due to extenuating or exceptional conditions from 1st Dan to 8th Dan. See also Section 8 of the BWK Rules & Regulations.

NB: It is required that all BWK members wishing to pursue Yūdan Shinsa should have attended the minimum BWK Standardisation/Advancement Courses (please refer to Yūdan Shinsa Application Form). In respect to 'Dojo Training Sessions' this DOES NOT include 'Dojo Teaching Hours' (unless as Assistant Instructor) and should not be recorded onto a BWK Club Attendance Card.

BWK Dan Grade application:

It is the member's own responsibility to send the application at least TWO months prior to the grading date. See Date Section for details.

All aspects of the application form must be filled correctly and signed, including the correct remittance. Incomplete applications will be returned.

The applicant must grade on the applied grade date, or forfeit the grading fee.

NB: For applicants up to and including 3rd Dan; the BWK will only accept individuals for grading who have been recommended by their MAIN INSTRUCTOR to grade and who have achieved the minimum required [provable] training session record-history and Standardisation Course attendances. Applications for Yūdan grades may be refused/rejected without reason. Grading applications from 3rd Dan & above must be from individuals who teach or run their own Club/s.

Although both grades & titles can be applied for (through normal examination and/or written paper procedures), it must be noted that they can also be awarded by the BWK President through 'time honoured' dedicated research and contribution to the BWK. ONLY the BWK President, taking into consideration loyal and dedicated-contribution to BWK etc., will 'award' Yūdan grades.

BWK Yūdan Gradings in the UK are available regularly through the year, and are listed in the BWK Date Section.

BWK KYŪ SHINSA

The British Wadokai Kyū 級 Grading

BWK operates an 'Open Grading Policy', whereby BWK Members/Students may attend and grade at any BWK 'Open Grading' held within a club of British Wadokai. This policy was

originally implemented (in 1965 by Suzuki Hanshi) so as members may be able to advance; even though their own instructor may not possess the adequate qualification to promote higher than his designated level (see BWK Grade Levels). Any BWK Member may grade at any of these 'Open Gradings' for their relevant Kyū Grade advancement, as long as the Examiner present has the adequate qualifications to grade the level attempting to be attained, etc. The student's own main instructor (if not in possession of the correct grade qualifications) must be the first 'port-of-call' if a student wishes to participate in one of these 'open gradings'. The instructor may 'advise' a student, but should not disallow him completely from attending the grading; *unless for reasons of readiness, attitude, inadequate training or time-served requirement deficits, etc.* Remember, this facility is for students whose own instructor is unable to grade those wishing to peruse advancement.

All grades are to be registered within BWK.

The relevant Grading Examiner must retain all Kyū Grade Sheets; a copy (or list) must be sent to the BWK Licence Officer when completed.

All BWK Yūdan gradings will be headed by the BWK President, Gary E Swift Kyoshi.

Official intervals/minimum training requirements for Kyū Grades

Beginner to 9th Kyū = Minimum 6-weeks training duration from original Licence Issue Registration Date.

Kyū grade duration between each rank from 9th Kyū to 1st Kyū = Minimum 3 Months duration with a minimum of 12 Training Sessions at a Fully Registered BWK Club.

Kyū Grade Scoring

All Kyū grade examinations will be monitored by qualified British Wadokai Yūdansha who possess Examiners/Instructors certificates/qualifications.


Before conducting a Kyū grading ensure that the correct grade fee has been paid to the Examiner, Secretary, Treasurer, etc. Upon the applicant handing over his/her BWK Licence and Club Attendance Record Card, check to see if it up to date. Ensure that there are sufficient time-lapses and training sessions between grades by checking the student's Club Attendance Record Card.

During assessment always take medical, age, mental & physical aspects into consideration at all times. For example if someone suffers from dyslexia he may find problems with coordination. He may find problems with, or incapable of, reciting the Dojo-kun. Remember, a fully able-bodied person 'should' know his stuff! If he does not, then mark him accordingly. Applicants for any grade (Dan or Kyū) must be in a personal peak condition to grade. If injured, temporarily or permanently, the applicant must not proceed with grading (or regular training, for that matter) until the injury has been 'cleared' by a physician. Permanent injuries will require individual assessment prior to training/grading progression.


Grade Scoring

Grade	3rd Class Pass	2nd Class Pass	1st Class Pass
9th Kyū	10+	20+	30+
8th Kyū	12+	25+	30+
7th Kyū	12+	25+	30+
6th Kyū	25+	30+	45+
5th Kyū	25+	40+	60+


4th Kyū	25+	45+	65+
3rd Kyū	40+	65+	85+
2nd Kyū	40+	65+	85+
1st Kyū	45+	70+	95+

Score	Symbol
Faultless; 4	0
Above Average; 3	
Average; 2	Δ
Below Average; 1	X Δ
Wrong; 0	X

Kyū Grade Examiner's Sheet Pattern.



British Wadokai Karate




Kyu Grade Level: Examiner: Date:


Full Name	DK	Obi	Kihon-waza							Renraku-waza		Sanbon	Ohyo	Kihon	Kata	Jiyu	Pass

All Grade Sheets, or copies, are to be returned for registration to: British Wadokai License Office, 57 South Hill, Hooe, Plymouth, Devon, PL9 9PT. Scanned copies can be sent to garyswif@wadokai.co.uk

Filled in example with assessment score and marking.



British Wadokai Karate



Kyu Grade Level: *7th* Examiner: *Dan Grade* Date: *18/3/13*

Full Name	DK	Obi	Kihon-waza							Renraku-waza		Sanbon	Ohyo	Kihon	Kata	Jiyu	Class	
<i>Joe Jutsu</i>	○	△	△	△	△					△	△	△	△		△			23
<i>Ken Jutsu</i>	△	△	△	△	△					△	△	△	△		△			25
<i>Sue Hari</i>	X	△	△	△	△					△	△	△	△		△			24

Further Notes Regarding Kyū & Dan Gradings.

Students Who Refuse to Fight!

Students who refuse to fight for gradings will be given the 'X' mark for their fighting contribution (wrong/inadequate).

A student must be prepared 100% to participate in gradings; *or wait until he is fit enough to contribute and/or fully perform within his grade*. A grading is a test of the all-round ability of the student, if he cannot [or is unable to] fight for his grade, then there is deficit in his ability to perform fully as a Wado-ka.

This effects & includes juniors and females who may also refuse to fight for gradings.

Correct Protocols and Formalities for a British Wadokai Kyū-Shinsa

- ✚ Kyū Gradings are charged at the normal grading fee (for charges please see BWK Constitution; 'Charges'). Licences and Club Record Attendance Cards must be produced and handed together with grade registration payment to the Secretary/Examiner when asked. Upon the applicant handing over his/her BWK Licence and Club Attendance Record Card, check to see if they are up to date. Ensure that there are sufficient time-lapses and training sessions between grades by checking the student's Club Attendance Record Card.
- ✚ There will be one Grade Sheet per grade level, so any additions can be easily added in the event of any late arrivals.
- ✚ Examinees are individually 'numbered' from the lowest grade upwards, etc.
- ✚ Formal Bowing On.
- ✚ "Seiretsu." All stand in formal ranks in Kiotsuke (Students and Examiner/s line up in correct formal position).
- ✚ Examiner/s, turning clockwise, faces 'Shomen'. Chief Examiner, "Shomen-ni-rei." All perform Standing bow to the front.
- ✚ Examiner/s, turning clockwise, faces Examinees. Chief Examiner, "Shinpandan-ni-rei." Examinees bow to Examiner/s.
- ✚ Chief Examiner (Shushin) takes one step back. "Otaga-ni-re." Chief Examiner, Examiners and Examinees bow to each other.

Procedures.

1. Examinees remain standing whilst Examiner/s sits at Examiners Table.
2. Examinees are informed of their numbers.
3. All Examinees are commanded to kneel before the Examiner/s Desk.
4. Dojo-Kun. All Examinees, for ALL Kyu-Shinsa (as well as Yūdan-Shinsa), will be commanded to recite Dojo-Kun, in both Japanese and English from lowest number upwards. NB. There are only two ways the Dojo Kun can be recited – *right or wrong*. If correct = O, if incorrect = X.
5. Hon-Musubi. All Examinees will be assessed and marked for their belt-tying. 9th & 8th Kyu will 'demonstrate' and be commanded to remove Obi and place in front 'folded' three times; then commanded to retie (whilst this is in process the Examiner will inspect the rest of the graded Examinees for correct O-Hon-Musubi). Examinees that do not require demonstration of O-Hon-Musubi tying will be marked accordingly for their 'presentation'. NB. There are only two ways the belt can be tied – *right or wrong*. If correct = O, if incorrect = X.
6. The Examination will be conducted in three parts/sections, which reflects the elements found in the Mon procedure.

7. All Kihon and Renraku Waza will be conducted through all Examinees first, from Examinee 1, in grade sequence. For example; all applicants for 6th kyu would go through kihon-gumite & Renraku-waza, followed by those attempting 5th Kyu, then 4th Kyu, etc.
8. Once all Kihon and Renraku Waza have been conducted then the process of the Uke-Waza, again from 1 through and upwards.
9. Then will follow the Kata in the same way.
10. The Jiyu-Kumite will be finally conducted in the same way, however, omitting those who have declined sparring as an option of choice (age, sex, injury, etc.). For omitted participants a score of 'wrong' must be given = X. It must be remembered, at these stages, to incorporate the Mon applicants through the elements they require along the way.
11. NB. For Jiyu-Gumite Bogu (hand mitts) MUST be worn (juniors and females may wear shin & instep padding, females may wear chest-protection), gum-shields and groin-guards are 'advised'. There will be no 'additional' padding allowed, such as head-guards or external body-shields, etc. The Jiyu-Gumite will be 'overseen' and conducted by an Examiner and the Kumite match may last no more than 60 seconds.
12. Upon completion of the Shinsa Examinees will be commanded to wait (in a separate room, only if necessary) until the final scoring has been made.
13. "Seiretsu" will be called from the Examiner and all are to line-up in correct grade/number order.
14. Faults may be highlighted and advice may be given upon further improvement for regarding or progression requirements.
15. Class Passes/Failures will be announced.
16. Shomeisho Reishiki. The formal awards of the grade/s. Each Examinee will collect, upon being called, their Menkyo (Licence), new Obi (Belt) and Shomeisho (Certificate); these must be offered and collected with two hands with a bow. When collected the Examinee will take one pace back and bow again before returning to his/her line.
17. Examinees will place on their new belts so as the Bow-Off can be conducted with the new rank.

Formal Bowing On/Off.

1. "Seiretsu." All stand in formal ranks in Kiritsu (Students and Examiner/s line up in correct formal position).
2. Examiner/s, turning clockwise, faces 'Shomen'. Chief Examiner, "Shomen-ni-rei." All perform Standing bow to the front.
3. Examiner/s, turning clockwise, faces Examinees. Chief Examiner, "Shinpan-dan-ni-rei." Examinees bow to Examiner/s.
4. Chief Examiner takes one step back. "Otaga-ni-re." Chief Examiner, Examiners and Examinees bow to each other.

Administration.



- ✚ Certificates and Licences to be signed by Examiner/s and handed during Shomeisho Reishiki.
- ✚ Grade Sheet copies may be sent to the BWK Licencing Officer, by either email attachment (scanned, etc.) or by post.
- ✚ Club Instructors will be advised of Examiner's assessment and may be handed a copy of the original Grade Sheet for their records.
- ✚ The Examiner may keep the original Grade Sheet for his/her records.

Faultless: Faultless is a '*non-grade specific*' mark given to a student for a 'faultless' demonstration/performance of the required technique. For example, the equivalent to a technique that would be marked 10/10 during a Yūdan assessment. Very few (if any) would be considered/marked 'faultless' for any Kyū grade due to the level of perfection expected.

Above Average. A technique that you would expect to see demonstrated of higher standard, or of an advanced level, to the grade the applicant is attempting. 10/10 Kyu level. For example; someone attempting 6th Kyū who reflects the standard/s of someone attempting 3rd Kyu, etc.

Average: The expected performance related to the grade being attempted.

Below Average: Below average performance. A technique that hasn't shown many signs of improvement, as would be expected, since last assessment level. This mark would also be used in the event of physical impairment, etc.

Wrong: Incorrect performance. A technique that is incorrect, or has been performed with multiple errors.

USEFUL COMMANDS/PHRASES FOR EXAMINERS

Commands.

- Seiretsu = Line up in formal ranks.
- Shugo = Informal assembly.
- Seiza = Kneel.
- Kiritsu = Stand (musubi-dachi).
- Kiotsuke = Formal attention position.
- Yohi = Ready/prepare (hachi-ji-dachi).
- Hadjime = Go/start.
- Yamae = Stop (return to hachi-ji-dachi).
- Naore = Come to kiritsu to 'prepare to bow'.
- Rei = Bow.
- Tachi-rei = Standing bow.
- Hidari = Left.
- Migi = Right.
- Hidari-gamae-junzuki = Left straight-punch stance.
- Mawatte = Turning hand (turn).

- Mawatte-jodan-uke = Turn with head-block.
- Mawatte-chudan-soto-uke = Turn with outer-body block.
- Mawatte-chudan-uchi-uke = Turn with inner-body block.
- Mawatte-gedan-barai = Turn with lower-body sweeping block.
- Sonabade-ippon-toru-gyakuzuki = From the same position, change-arms with reverse punch.
- Hidari-hanmi-gamae = left fighting stance.
- Hidari-shizentai = left natural position.
- Soroeru = Perform straight-through (command for kata, blocks, etc.).
- Shinpandan-ni-rei = Bow to referee.
- Otaga-ni-rei = Fighters bow to each other.
- Ban = Counting/command; ichi, ni, san, shi, goh = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Stances.

- Junzuki-dachi.
- Gyakuzuki-dachi.
- Junzuki-tsukkomi-dachi.
- Gyakuzuki-tsukkomi-dachi.

Postures/positions (these are *not* stances as they are considered positions of 'attitude').

- Yohi (ready).
- Yamae (stop).
- Gamae (posture).
- Hanmi-gamae (half-body position, used in fighting position).
- Shizentai (natural standing position).

INSTANT FAILURES

You must fail an applicant who; a. Does not take the grading seriously. b. Communicates to his partner, especially during pair-work. c. Talks through the grading. d. Has little or no knowledge of his requirements. e. Insufficient score on Grade Sheet for passing. f. Shows signs of bad attitude & language, disrespect or little regard for the proceedings.

BWK YŪDAN SHINSA ORGANISATION

There are two parts to the BWK Yūdan Shinsa.

1. Hikki Shiken 筆記試験 (Written Test).
2. Jitsugi Shiken 実技試験 (Practical Test).

The running and maintaining of the Black-Belt Gradings are the sole responsibility of the BWK President & Chief Instructor. No Club or Group may claim to run a **BWK Yūdan Shinsa**. All gradings of this nature will be organised and controlled by the BWK Chief Instructor. Venue and travelling costs will be met by British Wadokai. All payments received from participants/applicants to be made payable direct to British Wadokai. Shodan to Sandan grades are achievable through the Yūdan Shinsa process (Yodan & above may also be achieved in this way through individual choice). Grades of Yodan & above are through the BWK's honorary system and can only be achieved through dedication, loyalty, contribution and/or through a dedicated time-honoured process.

YŪDAN SHINSA

Yūdan Shinsa.

There are regular British Wadokai Yūdan Shinsa (Black-belt Gradings) held each year and available in various regions. See BWK Date Section for full details.

The British Wadokai Dan 段 Grading.

All Dan grade examinations will be monitored by qualified British Wadokai Yūdansa who possess Examiners/Instructors certificates/qualifications required for Panel Judges.

Level 4a may grade up to Shodan, 4b up to Nidan, 4c up to Sandan, etc.

Level 5; is reserved for the BWK President/Chief Instructor. Please also see Section 12 of the Constitution.

Only British Wadokai licenced members, who are directly involved, would be invited or permitted to attend an official BWK Yūdan Shinsa. The applicant's main instructor may also attend.

Before conducting a practical grading it is important that the 90-minute written examination has been completed.

When the applicant has handed over his BWK Licence ensure to check to see if it up to date. If it is seen to be invalid, reject applicant immediately.

During assessment always take medical, age, mental & physical aspects & implications into consideration at all times. For example if someone suffers from dyslexia he may find problems with coordination. He may find problems with, or incapable of, reciting the Dojo-kun. Remember, a fully-able person 'should' know his stuff! If he does not, then mark him accordingly. You may need to refer to the applicant's regular instructor for verification of ability/disability.

All applicants are judged as adults, irrespective of age. The Grade Scoring Process will determine whether a 'junior' applicant receives a 'junior' or 'senior' pass for his grade (this applies only to 1st and 2nd Dan levels). Each applicant will be marked as 8.5 for each segment if the standards achieved reflect the grade attempting. For example, in the event an applicant is attempting Shodan, the kihon-waza demonstrated should be that of Shodan standard. If it is better than that expected of Shodan then mark higher, if not, mark average (8.5) or lower, etc.

A minimum 'pass' would be a total accumulated figure of 82%. However, if the applicant is a junior, and his score is below that of 82%, he may pass as a Shodan/Nidan-ho if he has achieved 72% or above in both written and practical aspects of the grading. *There are no junior-pass marks for Sandan.*

Example (below) of the 10-Section Grade Sheet, which must equate to a minimum of 82% for full Yūdan pass in both the Written and Practical Tests.

NB: As you may notice *Attendance, Dedication and Loyalty* makes up 20% of the total marking, emphasising the importance of these aspects.

Dan Grade Examiner's Sheet Pattern.



British Wadokai Karate-do Federation
Assessment Sheet for 1st to 3rd Dan



Examiner: _____

Ex. Lev: _____

Date: _____

Name & Grade Attempting	Kihon Waza	Renraku Waza	Sanbon Gumite	Ohyo Gumite	Kihon Gumite	Kata Choice	Kata Syllabus	Jiyu Gumite	Dedicated Training	Attitude & Loyalty	Practical Result	Written Result

Grade Sheet Sections & Score Interpretations.

- ✚ **Section 1 to 8: Kihon Waza to Jiyu-Gumite:** A score of 10 would be considered faultless. Above Average; 8.5-9.9. Average for grade 8.5. Poor, but 'passable', 8.2. Below 8.2; failed that section
- ✚ **Dedicated Training:** A score of 10 reflects 100% attendance for usual Dojo activities and Courses, etc. Average for grade 8.5 (just usual Dojo attendance, etc.). Poor, but 'passable', 8.2. Below 8.2; failed that section.
- ✚ **Attitude & Loyalty.** Reflects on a student's attitude in the Dojo and respect to his instructors and others around him. He must be 100% committed to Wado karate, the Dojo and Sensei to achieve a mark of 10.

A BWK Yūdan Assessment Panel (YAP) is available to all members.

All Yūdan Shinsa:

1. Will be charged per student prior to grading. See Charges (Constitution/Application Form).
2. Will be charged for Registration (included in grade fee).
3. Yūdan Gradings will be conducted privately. Only people involved, or have been previously invited by the BWK President, may attend. BWK Examiners of any level may be in attendance for personal examination training purposes.
4. All applicants for Gradings must hold an up to date British Wadokai Licence.
5. All pre-registrations for Yūdan Gradings must be applied for AT LEAST TWO MONTHS before intended grading date.
6. All applicants for Gradings of Sandan must be registered (and insured) as an Instructor of a regular Dojo prior to application; Sandan and above are officially 'Sensei' grades.

7. All applicants for the physical Gradings of Yodan, and above, must be registered (and insured) as a Main Instructor of a regular Dojo.
8. All Yūdansha will be judged & marked for a pass as: 82% (and above) Practical. 82% (and above) Written.
9. All Junior Yūdansha: If the applicant is classified as a junior (10 to 17) he may be awarded a senior level if the senior scores are reached (see subsection (g) above). However if a 'senior' score has not been achieved a 'Junior Yūdansha' (Jido-Dan/Shodan-ho/Nidan-ho, Kohai, etc.) pass will be accepted if scored for a pass of: 72% (and above) Practical. 72% (and above) Written. This only applies to 1st & 2nd Dan level. *
10. All BWK Yūdan gradings will be headed by the BWK President, Gary E Swift Hanshi.
11. All Examiners, intending to be part of the BWK Yūdan Assessment Panel, must wear the appropriate Judges & Examiners attire (blazer, tie, etc.) or traditional Wado Karate-gi.
12. A Regional YAP Committee Meeting may be organised and convened, at any time, for the discussion, if necessary, for the registration-acceptance of new members joining from outside organisations already graded from Shodan.

* NB: Junior Yūdansha will not be granted grading powers or further advancement until reassessment to full Yūdansha has first been achieved.

NB: Yūdansha Applicants: The student's MAIN INSTRUCTOR will issue, *to the eligible member*, an up-to-date 'Yūdan Shinsa Application Form'.

See Section 18, Grading & Advancement, for prerequisite application requirements: Official intervals/minimum training requirements/guidelines for Yūdan applicants.

Originally, once 3rd Dan was achieved, there was no 'official' time period between black-belt ranks with honorary grades from 4th Dan upwards. However, British Wadokai has introduced the grading structure that has been adopted by the Japanese Karate Federation Wadokai (JKF-Wadokai). Please note the following time-lapses for Yūdan levels.

These include JKF-Wadokai guidelines adopted by BWK.

PRACTICAL DAN	MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS	EXAM. ** FEE	REG. *** FEE
1 DAN	1 Kyū for 9 Months (age 10+)	£75	£75
2 DAN	1 Dan for 18 Months (age 14+)	£75	£75
3 DAN	2 Dan for 3 Years (age 18+)	£75	£75
4 DAN	3 Dan for 4 Years	£75	£75
5 DAN	4 Dan for 5 Years	£75	£75
6 DAN	5 Dan for 6 Years (age 35+)	£75	£75
7 DAN	6 Dan for 7 Years (age 40+)	£75	£75
8 DAN	7 Dan for 8 Years (age 50+)	£75	£75
9 DAN	8 Dan for 9 Years (age 60+)	£75	£75
Transfer to Regular from Junior Through Reassessment.			
1 DAN	Age 14+	nil	nil
2 DAN	Age 16+	nil	nil

Transfer to Wado Through Reassessment (transferring style, etc.).			
DAN LEVEL	MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS	EXAM. FEE	REG. FEE
ALL DAN	Pre-existing Dan Level	n/a	nil
RECOMMENDED DAN*	MINIMUM RECOMMENDED QUALIFICATIONS THROUGH NORMAL CONDITIONS	EXAM. FEE	REG. FEE
1 DAN	Practical Karate for 5 Years	nil	£75
2 DAN	1 Dan for 18 Months	nil	£75
3 DAN	2 Dan for 2 Years	nil	£75
4 DAN	3 Dan for 3 Years	nil	nil
5 DAN	4 Dan for 4 Years, Age 40+	nil	nil
6 DAN & ABOVE	At the discretion of the BWK President. Age 45+*	nil	nil
TITLE	MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS	EXAM. FEE	REG. FEE
Renshi	4 Dan for 2 Years, Age 35+	nil	nil
Kyoshi	Renshi for 5 Years, 6 Dan, Age 45+	nil	nil
Hanshi	Kyoshi for 10 Years, 8 Dan, Age 55+	nil	nil

*Recommended Dan refers to Grades Awarded as honorary. Only the Chief Instructor (or assigned/designated officer) of BWK has the power to award/promote any individual, at any time, through honorary 1st Dan to 9th Dan inclusive, *irrelevant of time-served criteria*. Promotion is NOT guaranteed, even through time-dedicated service. Each candidate is individually assessed & reviewed, over time, for his attitude, dedication and loyalty to British Wadokai. Please refer to the 'time-served' periods for 'Practical Dan', for the 'normal' period between honorary grade promotion.

**Examination fee includes; Chief Examiner travelling expenses, Dojo rent, black-belt (if applicable), signed & frame BWK certificate, all administration.

***This is a 'life-time registration', which means upon the BWK/BWF moving to another National, International or World Governing Body the grades will be automatically transferred & registered FOC to the new affiliation. Any new affiliated black-belt certificate will also be sent to the registered Yūdansa FOC.

NB: All BWK members wishing to pursue Yūdan Shinsa must have attended the minimum BWK Standardisation/Advancement Courses (please refer to Yūdan Shinsa Application Form). In respect to 'Dojo Training Sessions', this DOES NOT include 'Dojo Teaching Hours'. However, if in exceptional circumstances such as impractical distance of location/venue, etc., *discretion may be made*.

BWK Dan Grade application:

It is the member's own responsibility to send the application AT LEAST TWO MONTHS prior to the grading date. See Date Section for details. *All late applications will be rejected & returned.*

All aspects of the application form must be filled correctly and signed, including the correct remittance. *Incomplete applications will be rejected & returned.*

The applicant must grade on the applied grade date, or forfeit the grading fee (with the exception of extenuating circumstances, such as ill-health, etc.).

NB: For applicants up to and including 3rd Dan the BWK will only accept individuals for grading who have been recommended by their MAIN INSTRUCTOR to grade. Applications for Yūdan grades may be refused/rejected without reason. Grading applications from 3rd Dan & above must be from individuals who already teach at a Dojo or run their own Club/s.

There are no physical gradings past 3rd Dan within BWK, for 'full' BWK Members who have trained and graded through the full British Wadokai grade structure. All applications for promotion up-to and including 7th Dan must be presented through the normal channels (i.e. BWK President). Applicants who have not trained & graded through the BWK process *may* be required to grade for all Yūdan levels up to and including 7th Dan.

Administration.

All expenses, venue, administration, Chief Examiner expenses, etc., will be taken from central British Wadokai funds.

BWK Yūdan Assessment Panel (YAP).

- ✚ Black-belt gradings are not open to the public or others. Only those involved with the grading, or have been expressly invited by the Chief Examiner, may attend these events.
- ✚ The BWK Black-Belt Grading/Assessment Panel will consist of:
 - ✚ The BWK Chief Instructor.
 - ✚ Invited BWK Examiners (3rd Dan & above, depending on level/s of examinees).
 - ✚ Invited Guests.

Although both grades & titles can be applied for (through normal examination and/or written paper procedures), it must be noted that they can also be awarded by the BWK President through 'time honoured' dedicated research and contribution to the BWK. ONLY the BWK President, taking into consideration loyal and dedicated contribution to BWK etc., can 'award' Yūdan grades.

All BWK Yūdan Gradings in the UK are held at least twice a year, and are listed in the BWK Date Section.

INSTANT FAILURES

You must fail an applicant who; a. Does not take the grading seriously. b. Communicates to his partner, especially during pair-work. c. Talks through the grading. d. Has little or no knowledge of his requirements. e. Insufficient score on Grade Sheet for passing. f. Shows signs of bad attitude, disrespect or little regard for the proceedings. *Bad attitude will not be tolerated in any grading.*

Recommendations for students who have failed various gradings.

Grade Failure.

It is a general rule that the following recommendations are observed.

Failure of Dan Gradings.

- ✚ Upon any Dan grade being failed (irrespective of written, practical or both) the student must produce a minimum training record, *FROM FAILURE DATE*, of 52 training sessions AND 6 months before the retake can be honoured by the Yūdan

Assessment Panel. However, students will only be required to retake the element/s they have failed (for example, if the student has only failed the practical he does not need to retake the written, and/or vice-versa). The part/element re-take facility will only be valid for 12 months from the original failure date, after this time both elements will have to be retaken.

- ✚ To clarify: In the event of a 'retake', due to a failure, illness or non-attendance, the applicant may reapply for a second attempt after 6-months from the failure date (application must be submitted in the usual way at least two months prior to the actual grading date (see Date Section for details)).
- ✚ In the event of a failure, all previous training history/accumulation, on and prior to the failure date, would have to be re-accumulated. In the event of 6-months this would still be a minimum of 52 BWK TRAINING SESSIONS = 78 Training Hours PROCEEDING the failure date/day.
- ✚ All applicants MUST reapply using the official Yūdan Shinsa Application Form, available from your instructor, British Wadokai Administration Department, or British Wadokai Website.
- ✚ Irrelevant of how many Panel Judges there are in attendance; and of how many of them have passed an applicant: It must be remembered that if ONE Examiner on the panel has failed an applicant the applicant has failed the grade completely.

Injuries.

Applicants for any grade (Dan or Kyū) must be in a personal peak condition to grade. If injured, temporarily or permanent, the applicant must not proceed with grading (or regular training, for that matter) until the injury has been 'cleared' by a trained physician. Permanent injuries will require individual assessment prior to training/grading progression.



Yūdansa No linkai

The British Wadokai Yūdansa Committee

British Wadokai Black-Belt Examination/Assessment Panel 有段者の委員会

See BWK Constitution for latest list.

Terminology (Judges & Panel Judges, etc.). SHINPANDAN – 'Jury', 'panel of judges'.

SHINPAN 審判官 – Judge. *Shinpan can refer to judges in a contest or within a grading.*
Shushin (head judge). Fukushin (assistant judge).

BWK Yūdan Assessment Panel (YAP):

- ✚ The BWK Black-Belt Grading/Assessment Panel will consist of:
- ✚ The BWK President/Chief Instructor.
- ✚ Invited BWK Examiners (3rd Dan & above).
- ✚ Invited Guests.

Although both grades & titles can be applied for (through normal examination and/or written paper procedures), it must be noted that they can also be awarded by the BWK President through 'time honoured' dedicated research and contribution to the BWK. ONLY the BWK President, taking into consideration loyal and dedicated contribution to BWK etc., can 'award' Yūdan grades.

The Honorary Assessment

Technical to honorary is the natural progress of the Yūdansa. From 1st Dan to 3rd Dan (reflecting the principles of the individual's Su-Ha-Ri), these are regarded as technical grades, *3rd Dan being the last 'technical' grading*. From here on the individual searches the 'Ri' within his 'own' technique, without effecting the direction of others and also not violating the principles and teachings of the original 'RYU'. However, 4th Dan & above are considered 'honorary' grades, meaning that the Yūdansa is 'assessed' for his progress along with his dedication & loyalty to Wadoryu and British Wadokai. These grades are *NOT* automatic, as the Yūdansa must continually reflect and demonstrate the natural important elements required to receive such an honour. As explained, the honorary grade is NOT based solely on technical merit, but more importantly on the merit, character, dedication and loyalty of the recipient. To receive an honour is considered the highest of award & reward within British Wadokai.

AWARD/PRESENTATION CEREMONY & ETIQUETTE

REI-SHIKI 礼式

'Bow/courtesy ceremony'. Refers to the classical forms of bowing & politeness within a Dojo. Also refers to the ceremony where a student receives new Belt *and or rank*.

In British Wadokai students are generally called to the front of class. They would exchange a bow with the Examiner/s and, under whatever ceremonial circumstance, receive their award of certificate and new belt. The recipient and Examiner, for correct etiquette processes, would present and accept the certificate/belt with both hands and exchange bowing towards the Examiner/s. The student would then return to the rank in the correct position, reflecting the new rank. The student would then drop to one knee and replace his belt with the new one awarded.

Picture: Ohtsuka Meijin receives his honorary promotion from Funakoshi Gichin.

