

Shinsa Unified Criteria (for Godan and under) - 2017

Dan/Kyū Grade	Formal Movement ( <i>Taihai</i> )	Shooting Principles and Shooting Skill ( <i>Shahō-Shagi</i> )	Remarks
Godan	<p><b>The shooting form (<i>Shakei</i>), the shooting technique (<i>Shajitsu</i>) and the formal movement (<i>Taihai</i>) should be consistent with the principles of shooting (<i>Shahō</i>) and refinement (<i>Shahin</i>) should be apparent. In particular, progress should be shown over the previous levels.</b></p>		<p>In <i>Rissha</i>, <i>Tasuki-Sabaki</i> is not to be performed.</p>
	<p>Consistency of all the movements (<i>Kiyo-Shintai</i>) with the criterion of shooting. Composure in the deportment and attitude. Correct wearing of <i>Wafuku</i> and performance of <i>Hadanugi/Tasuki-sabaki</i>.</p>	<p>Firm maintaining of the basic body form (<i>Kihontaikei</i>). Use of <i>Tatesen</i> as axis in <i>Hikiwake</i>. Fulfilment of the spirit in <i>Kai</i>. <i>Tsumeai</i>, <i>Nobiai</i>. Sharp <i>Hanare</i> obtained by the motion of focused spiritual energy (<i>Kiai</i>), <i>Tsurune</i>, <i>Zanshin</i> and <i>Yudaoshi</i>. Dignity and refinement expressed in the shooting combined with the <i>Taihai</i> into a unified whole.</p>	
Yondan	<p><b>The shooting form (<i>Shakei</i>) is better established and the formal movement (<i>Taihai</i>) is more stable. There should be correct breathing, the application of the shooting technique (<i>Shajitsu</i>) should be consistent with the principles of shooting (<i>Shahō</i>) and <i>Hanare</i> should be sharp. Consistency should be reached in hitting the <i>Mato</i> (<i>Tekichū</i>).</b></p>		
	<p>Good command of <i>Taihai</i> and coordination with <i>Ikiai</i>. Proper performance of the shooting sequence (shooting procedure in <i>Shinsa</i>, coordination (<i>Ma</i>) with the timing of others, handling of <i>Shitsu</i>...).</p>	<p><i>Tateyoko-Jūmonji</i> and <i>Gojū-Jūmonji</i>. Correct breathing and consistency in the application of <i>Shajitsu</i> with <i>Shahō</i>. Stability of the Spirit (and Mind) and fullness of spiritual energy (<i>Kiryoku</i>) in <i>Kai</i>. <i>Tsumeai</i>, <i>Nobiai</i>. Working of <i>Tenouchi</i> (correct <i>Yugaeri</i>), sharpness of <i>Hanare</i> and focus of spiritual energy (<i>Kiai</i>) in <i>Zanshin</i>.</p>	
Sandan	<p><b>The shooting form (<i>Shakei</i>) is better established and the formal movement (<i>Taihai</i>) is more stable. The breathing is ordered and the application of the shooting technique (<i>Shajitsu</i>) follows the principles of shooting (<i>Shahō</i>). The arrow should fly straight, and there should be more consistency in hitting the <i>Mato</i> (<i>Tekichū</i>).</b></p>		
	<p>Coordination of the basic postures and movements with the breathing. Composure in the deportment. <i>Mezukai</i>. Correct application of the shooting procedure for <i>Shinsa</i>.</p>	<p>Correct application of <i>Shajitsu</i> following the <i>Shahō-Hassetsu</i>. Correct <i>Ashibumi</i> and <i>Dōzukuri</i>. <i>Gojū-Jūmonji</i>. Working of <i>Tenouchi</i> (<i>Yugaeri</i>), <i>Yazuka</i>, <i>Hōzuke</i>, <i>Munazuru</i> and <i>Matozuke</i>. <i>Hanare</i>, <i>Zanshin</i>, and arrow flight (<i>Yatobi</i>).</p>	
Nidan	<p><b>Both the shooting form (<i>Shakei</i>) and formal movement (<i>Taihai</i>) should have good arrangement with evidence of spiritual energy (<i>Kiryoku</i>) in the application of the shooting technique (<i>Shajitsu</i>). There should be less uncertainty in the placing of the arrows (<i>Yadokoro</i>).</b></p>		<p>If <i>Hazukobore</i> occurs, judgement will be based on the remaining arrow. Dropping two arrows is considered a fail. (This applies to <i>Shodan</i> and <i>Nidan</i> examinations.)</p>
	<p>Sound execution of the basic postures and movements including <i>Toriyumi no Shisei</i>, <i>Yatsugae</i>, the way of moving the feet...</p>	<p>Progress in establishing <i>Sanjū-Jūmonji</i> and <i>Gojū-Jūmonji</i>. Presence of <i>Kiryoku</i> in the application of <i>Shajitsu</i>. Direction of <i>Hanare</i> and presence of <i>Kiryoku</i> in <i>Zanshin</i>. No assessment of <i>Tekichū</i>.</p>	

Shodan	<b>The shooting form (<i>Shakei</i>) and the formal movement (<i>Taihai</i>) should be consistent with the standard form. There should not be disarray in the placing of the arrows (<i>Yadokoro</i>).</b>		
	Consistency of the postures and movements with the basic standard form. Moderate behaviour.	Consistency in the performance of the <i>Shahō-Hassetsu</i> according to the standard form. Smooth <i>Hikiwake</i> , effort in <i>Kai</i> , energetic <i>Hanare</i> , presence of <i>Kiryoku</i> in <i>Zanshin</i> . Correct posture after <i>Yudaoshi</i> . If the <i>Ya</i> drops off the <i>Yamakura</i> , it is not considered an issue.	
Ikkyū	<b>Shooting form (<i>Shakei</i>) and formal movement (<i>Taihai</i>) should be mostly correct.</b>		If <i>Hazukobore</i> occurs, judgement will be based on the remaining arrow. If both arrows fall, judgement will be based on a third arrow. If the arrow drops again, the result will be a fail. (This applies to all Kyū examinations.)
	Relative consistency of the postures and movements with the basic standard form. Handling of the <i>Yumi-Ya</i> .	Relative consistency in the performance of the <i>Shahō-Hassetsu</i> according to the standard form.	
Nikyū	<b>Compared to Sankyū, there should be noticeable progress in the degree of training received.</b>		
	Considerable progress in the postures and movements compared to Sankyū.	Ability to perform the <i>Shahō-Hassetsu</i> almost without mistakes.	
Sankyū	<b>The basic movements of the shooting and the handling of the <i>Yumi-Ya</i> are gradually improving, showing that the candidate has been training under systematic instruction.</b>		
	Ability to execute the basic movements and basic handling of the <i>Yumi-Ya</i> following the instruction received. Ability to perform the <i>Shahō-Hassetsu</i> almost in sequence.		
Yonkyū	<b>Systematic instruction is being received and progress demonstrated in the handling of the <i>Yumi-Ya</i>.</b>		
	Evidence of progress in the candidate's behaviour inside the Dojo and in the handling of the <i>Yumi-Ya</i> . Ability to perform the shooting safely.		
Gokyū	<b>The candidate is at the first stage of Kyudo training.</b>		
	The level of Yonkyū is not reached.		

Note 1: The upper criteria written in bold for each Dan/Kyū are quoted from Article 8 (Qualifications Criteria for Dan/Kyū Grades) of the Shinsa Regulations.

Note 2: During examinations, candidates will be overall assessed in view of the different elements of the Shinsa unified criteria stated above.