

AIKIDO MINIMUM PROMOTION TEST REQUIREMENTS - KYU RANKS

7th KYU White belt with stripe. training.	Minimum 2 months and 20 hours of
<u><i>Ki Tests and Exercises</i></u> Seiza - Sitting Japanese style with legs folded underneath Shizentai - Natural stance with feet shoulder-width Ore-naite - Unbendable arm, tested while in hanmi stance Koho Tento Undo - Rolling backward and forward from sitting, kneeling and standing positions Ushiro Ukemi, Rolling - Tumbling backward completely, from kneeling and standing positions Mae Ukemi, Rolling - Tumbling forward completely, from kneeling and standing positions Kokyudosa - Partner practice in seiza position; exercise to develop timing or "breath" power	<u><i>Technique</i></u> Katatekosatori Kotegaeshi - Cross-hand wrist grab/ "Wrist-turning" throw, pin Katatori Ikkyo - Lapel grab/ "First teaching" and pin Katatekosatori Kokyunage - Cross-hand wrist grab/ "Timing throw," controlling the head
6th KYU Yellow belt. 7th Kyu.	Minimum 3 months and 30 hours of training after earning
<u><i>Ki Tests and Exercises</i></u> Ushiro Ukemi, Breakfall - Rolling backward with slap, and returning to standing position Mae Ukemi, Breakfall - Falling forward with slap, and returning to standing position Empty Hand Strikes - Shomenuchi, Yokomenuchi, and Munetsuki; demonstration of basic strikes Funakogi Undo - "Rowing exercise" Shomenuchi Ikkyo Undo - Raising and lowering the arms as if cutting with a sword Renzoku Kokyudosa - Kokyudosa practiced continuously, one side to another without pause	<u><i>Technique</i></u> Shomenuchi Kokyunage - Downward strike to the head/ "Timing throw;" controlling the head Katatetori Shihonage - Same side wrist grab/ "Four directions throw" Shomenuchi Iriminage - Downward strike to the head/ "Entering throw" Katatori Nikyo - Lapel grab/ "Second teaching" and pin
5th KYU Yellow belt with stripe. 6th Kyu.	Minimum 3 months and 30 hours of training after earning
<u><i>Ki Tests and Exercises</i></u> Hanmi No Kamae - "Half-body stance" Banzai no Kamae - Stance with feet shoulder-width and both arms raised Zengo Undo - Raising and lowering arms as if cutting with a sword, with 180 degree pivoting motion Happo Undo - Raising and lowering arms with movement as if cutting in eight directions Tekubikosa Undo - "Crossing the wrists exercise;" high and low variations required Kamae with Bokken - Demonstration of five basic sword stances Bokken and Jo Suburi - Demonstration of basic strikes with sword and staff	<u><i>Technique</i></u> Shomenuchi Kotegaeshi - Downward strike to the head/ "Wrist turning" throw and pin Shomenuchi Ikkyo - Downward strike to the head/ "First teaching" and pin Katatetori Sankyo - Same side wrist grab/ "Third teaching;" both nage waza (throwing) and katame waza (pinning) variations required Yokomenuchi Sokumen Iriminage - Strike to the side of the head/ "Side of the face, Entering throw" (technique performed in the manner of Sayu Undo) Munetsuki Kotegaeshi - Thrusting strike to the chest / "Wrist turning" throw and pin Katatetori Kaitenage - Same side wrist grab/ "Rotary throw". Tenkan variation required
4th KYU Blue belt. AAA Seminar	Minimum 3 months and 30 hours of training since earning 5th Kyu, and prior attendance at 1
<u><i>Ki Tests and Exercises</i></u> Ushirosori - Bending backwards while in hanmi stance Maekagami - Stooping forward while in hanmi stance Sayu Undo - "Left and right exercise;" extending arms to the left and right and sinking the hips Sayu Choyaku Undo - "Left and right exercise;" with stepping movement Udefuri Undo - "Swinging the arms exercise" to left and right Udefuri Choyaku Undo - "Swinging the arms exercise" with stepping and turning motion Ushirotori Undo - "Grasped from behind exercise" Ushirotekubitori Undo - "Wrists grasped from behind"	<u><i>Technique</i></u> Yokomenuchi Shihonage - Strike to the side of the head/ "Four directions throw" Ushirotekubitori Kokyunage - Wrists grasped from behind/ "Timing throw;" variation in the manner of Ushirotekubitori Undo required Ushirotekubitori Kotegaeshi - Wrists grasped from behind/ "Wrist turning" throw and pin Katatori Yonkyo - Lapel grab/ "Fourth teaching" and pin Ryotetori Tenchinage - Grasping both wrists/ "Heaven and Earth throw" Ryotetori Kokyunage - Grasping both wrists/ "Timing

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exercise” Shikko - Walking and turning on one's knees Taisabaki Toshu - “Empty-hand body movement” against Katatetori, Shomenuchi, Yokomenuchi and Munetsuki attacks.	throw;” pivot throw variations required
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3rd KYU Blue belt with stripe. Minimum 6 months and 60 hours of training since earning 4th Kyu, and prior attendance at one AAA Camp.	
<u><i>Ki Tests and Exercises</i></u> Yoko Ukemi - “Side fall” exercise, from squatting and standing position, from tumbling forward, and while hand is grasped by a partner Tenkan Undo - “Spinning change exercise;” turning body movement (direct pivot and step-with-pivot variations required)	<u><i>Technique</i></u> Ushirohijitori Kotegaeshi - Grasping elbows from behind/ “Wrist-turning” throw and pin Munetsuki Kokyunage - Thrusting strike to the chest / “Timing throw;” pivot-throw variation required Katatori Gokyo - Lapel grab/ “Fifth teaching” and pin Ushirotori Kokyunage - Grasping from behind (bearhug)/ “Timing throw;” executed in the manner of Ushirotori Undo Ryotetori Kaitenage - Grasping both wrists/ “Rotary throw” Katategyotetori Nikyo - Grasping a forearm with both hands/ “Second teaching” and pin Suwarewaza (the following techniques performed from seated (seiza) position): Shomenuchi Kokyunage Shomenuchi Ikkyo Katatori Nikyo Bokken Kata I - First sword form; 13 movements (“Happo Giri;” cutting in eight directions) Jiyu Waza - “Free technique;” defense against any grasping attack
2nd KYU Brown belt. Minimum 6 months and 60 hours training and attendance at one Instructor’s Seminar since earning 3rd kyu.	
<u><i>Ki Tests and Exercises</i></u> Agura no Shisei - Sitting cross legged Kata Ashiage - Raising one leg, hand extended in front Agaranai Karada - Unliftable body Questions - Verbal examination will be administered by test committee on the following topics: Four Basic Principles of Aikido What is Aikido? Meisoho – Questions regarding meditation training Kokyuho - Demonstration of and questions on breathing training	<u><i>Technique</i></u> Ryokatatori Kokyunage - Grasping both lapels/ “Timing throw;” pivot-throw variations required Ushirokatatori Kokyunage - Grasping both shoulders from behind/ “Timing throw;” variation with bowing movement required Katategyotetori Kokyunage - Grasping a forearm with both hands/ “Timing throw” Ryokatatori Kotegaeshi - Grasping both lapels / “Wrist-turning” throw, pin Katatori Menuchi Iriminage - Lapel grab with shomenuchi or yokomenuchi to head/ “Entering throw” Hanmi Hantachi Waza (the following techniques performed from a seated (seiza) position against a standing attacker: Katatetori Shihonage Katatetori Sankyo Munetsuki Kotegaeshi Ryotetori Koshinage - Grasping both wrists/ “Hip throw” Maegeri Kokyunage - Front snapping kick/ “Timing throw” Jiyu Waza - “Free technique;” defense against any attack Jo Kata I - First staff form; 22 movements
1st KYU Brown belt with stripe. 2nd kyu. Minimum 6 months and 60 hours since earning	
<u><i>Ki Tests and Exercises</i></u> Tai Sabaki with Bokken - Body movement and striking with the sword against an opponent, against shomenuchi, yokomenuchi/ gyaku-yokomenuchi, sliding munetsuki, and stepping munetsuki attacks	<u><i>Technique</i></u> Ushirotekubitori Jujinage - Grasp both wrists from behind/ Entwining the arms in the shape of the Japanese number “10” (a cross) and throwing Yokomenuchi Sudori - Strike to the side of the head/ “Disappearing” throw Katategyotetori Kotegaeshi - Grasping a forearm with both hands/ “Wrist turning” throw and pin Munetsuki Sumiotoshi - Thrusting attack to the chest/ “Corner drop” throw Katatori Ganmenuchi Ikkyo - Lapel grab with straight punch to face/ “First teaching” and pin

Tantodori - Defense against knife attacks; at least three techniques each against shomenuchi, yokomenuchi, and munetsuki attacks required Bokken Kata II - Second sword form; 13 movements Randori - "Seizing chaos;" defense against multiple attackers (3)

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. These requirements are a minimum standard for the purposes of promotion testing; this is not a comprehensive listing of all the applications of technique with which you must be familiar.
2. Many techniques have omote (front) and ura (rear) variations which you must demonstrate.
3. Many techniques have applications against both static and dynamic attacks which you must know.
4. In certain cases a particular variation of a technique is required and is noted above; you are encouraged, however, to demonstrate additional variations.
5. All tests are cumulative; you must be prepared to demonstrate exercises and techniques from all ranks prior to the one for which you are actually testing.
6. Requirements of attendance at Aikido Seminar, Camps, and Instructor Seminars are fulfilled only by AAA/AAI events.
7. All test candidates must complete the following prior to testing: (a) Dojo dues must be paid in full; (b) AAA or AAI annual dues must be paid up to date; (c) Examination application form must be completed legibly and submitted to your instructor; (d) Examination fee must be paid.
8. No application for promotion testing will be accepted by the test committee without the knowledge and consent of the candidate's instructor.

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Shodan Black Belt, 1st degree.	Minimum 9 months and 90 hours of training, and attendance at one Instructor's Seminar since earning 1st kyu
Two written essays required: "What is Aikido?" "What is Shugyo?"	<u>Technique</u> Munetsuki - Free demonstration; minimum five arts Yokomenuchi - Free demonstration; minimum five arts Ushirotekubitori - Free demonstration; minimum five arts Ryotetori - Free demonstration; minimum five arts Hanmi Hantachi - Free technique Bokken Dori - "Seizing the wooden sword:" unarmed defense against sword attack; minimum 3 techniques each against shomenuchi, yokomenuchi, and munetsuki attacks required Jo Kata II - Second staff form; 22 movements Randori - Defense against multiple attackers (4)
Nidan Black Belt, 2nd degree.	Minimum 18 months and 50 hours as Assistant Instructor, attendance at one Instructor's Seminar or Camp since earning shodan
One written essay required: "Aikido History and Future"	<u>Technique</u> Katatori Ganmenuchi - Free demonstration; minimum five arts Shomenuchi - Free demonstration; minimum five arts Hanmi Hantachi - Free technique against two attackers Jo Dori - "Seizing the staff:" unarmed defense against staff attack; minimum 3 techniques each against shomenuchi, yokomenuchi, and munetsuki attacks required Randori - Defense against multiple attackers (5)
Sandan Black Belt, 3rd degree.	Minimum 30 months and 100 hours as Assistant Instructor, attendance at one Instructor's Seminar and one Camp since earning nidan
One written essay required: "Aikido Philosophy"	<u>Technique</u> Jo Nage - "Throwing with the staff;" free demonstration Kumijo - Staff versus staff forms (5) Kumitachi - Sword versus sword forms (6) Randori - Defense against multiple attackers (6)
Yondan Black Belt, 4th degree.	Minimum 42 months and 200 hours as Instructor, attendance at one Instructor's Seminar and one Camp since earning sandan
One written essay required: "Application of Aikido" Interview with Shihan required	<u>Technique</u> Kihon Waza - "Basic technique:" five-minute free demonstration Henka Waza - "Changing technique:" five-minute free demonstration Oyo Waza - "Applied or advanced technique:" five-minute free demonstration Instructional Methodology - Free demonstration of how to instruct Kihon Waza and Oyo Waza

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