

Unified Shinsa Criteria (for Godan and below) - 2018

Dan/Kyū Grade	Formal Movement (<i>Taihai</i>)	Shooting Principles and Shooting Skill (<i>Shahō-Shagi</i>)	Remarks
Godan	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.		
	Consistency of all the movements (<i>Kiyo-Shintai</i>) with the criterion of shooting. Composure in deportment and attitude. Correct wearing of <i>Wafuku</i> and performance of <i>Hadanugi/Tasuki-sabaki</i> . (<i>Zasha</i>)	Firm maintaining of the basic body form (<i>Kihontaikei</i>). Use of <i>Tatesen</i> as axis in <i>Hikiwake</i> . Fulfillment 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.	
Yondan	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>).		
	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> , etc.).	<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> .	
Sandan	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>).		
	Coordination of the basic postures and movements with the breathing. Composure in deportment. <i>Mezukai</i> . Correct application of the shooting procedure for <i>Shinsa</i> .	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>).	
Nidan	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>).		If <i>Hazukobore</i> occurs, judgement will be based on the remaining arrow. Dropping two arrows is considered a fail. (This applies to Shodan and Nidan examinations.)
	Sound execution of the basic postures and movements including <i>Toriyumi no Shisei</i> , <i>Yatsugae</i> , the way of moving the feet, etc.	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> .	

Shodan	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>).		
	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	Shooting form (<i>Shakei</i>) and formal movement (<i>Taihai</i>) should be mostly correct.		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	Compared to Sankyū, there should be noticeable progress in the degree of training received.		
	Considerable progress in the postures and movements compared to Sankyū.	Ability to perform the <i>Shahō-Hassetsu</i> almost without mistakes.	
Sankyū	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.		
	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	Systematic instruction is being received and progress demonstrated in the handling of the <i>Yumi-Ya</i>.		
	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	The candidate is at the first stage of Kyudo training.		
	The level of Yonkyū is not reached.		

Note 1: The upper criteria written in bold for each Dan/Kyū are quoted from Article 8 (Qualification 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.