

TAE Procedure for Dan Grade Examinations

As an Aikikai acknowledged organisation, TAE provides their members a possibility for dan grade examinations with recognition from Hombu Dojo. This document sets the guidelines for the correct procedure leading to an examination and shows the quality criteria that are assessed during an examination.

Before the examination

There are three pre-requisites a candidate needs to fulfil prior to being allowed to take an examination:

- The candidate should be able to perform the minimal requirements of the test as specified in the TAE Syllabus and satisfy the time interval since the last grade and hours training as required by Hombu Dojo Japan.
- The candidate should be in regular training at least twice a week.
- The candidate should have attended a minimum of three full seminars since the last examination.

Examination application procedure

Should a dojo-cho from an individual TAE dojo consider that one of their students or they themselves are ready for an examination and fulfil the above criteria they can contact the Grading Committee Secretary at:

examination@traditionalaikido.eu

The secretary will then aid in setting up a pre-test. This can be arranged at a seminar or intensive, either internationally or at the local dojo. A candidate should have at least one pre-test with a member of the TAE Grading Committee prior to the actual examination.

If the pre-test receives negative evaluation, then further training is required followed by a second pre-test. This process should be repeated until the pre-test is followed by a positive evaluation.

Once a pre-test receives positive evaluation then the candidate can proceed to prepare for the actual examination. At this moment, the date for the examination can be planned. In some exceptional cases this could be the same/next day.

Examination Protocol

- 1) The Examination Panel ideally consists of at least two members of the TAE Grading Committee – one of whom must be one of the three currently recognised Aikikai Hombu Examiners within TAE – plus the Dojo cho(s) of the candidate(s) in question.
- 2) The dojo cho(s) of the candidate(s) are present as well, but have no active role either during the examination or in the decision-making process. This also applies if he/she is a TAE Grading Committee member.
- 3) During the examination, the dojo is closed out of respect for the candidates to minimise distractions. Taking photographs or filming requires permission from the candidates and Examination Panel beforehand.
- 4) The lead examiner is decided upon by the Examination Panel beforehand. He/she will lead through the exam(s).
- 5) Execution of techniques is done according to the announcements of the lead examiner.
- 6) All candidates and their ukes are required to remain on the mat until all exams are finished.
- 7) After a short discussion among the Examination Panel, the results of the examinations will be announced. The result of each examination is a consensus decision among the members of the Examination Panel with the Aikikai Recognised Examiner holding a veto vote should consensus not be possible. Individual examiners need to justify their decisions with clear criteria.
- 8) The decision of the Examination Panel is situational to which a number of individual aspects contribute, as well as the overall impression. It therefore cannot be analytically justified down to the last detail.
- 9) The decision of the Examination Panel is not contestable. Following the decision, candidates will receive feedback on their performance and have the opportunity to talk to the grading panel.

Considerations

TAE is striving to examine everyone according to the same standards. The ideal of the examination process is to create a situation of controlled pressure where the candidates can demonstrate their quality and ability to satisfy the requirements for the particular grade they are testing for. As such, the lead examiner strives to help the candidates achieve this and will intervene with additional requests or grant breaks for the candidates as appropriate.

Professional and transparent approach

All pre-tests and examinations will be documented centrally per candidate with access for the TAE Grading Committee. This will allow all TAE Grading Committee members to have access to the same set of information to aid them in ongoing pre-tests should this be the case.

approved by the TAE Grading Committee, July, 2023

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