



World Karate Federation

Kata Competition

Examination questions for Kata Judges

Version January 2019

The answer paper is to be returned to the examiners. All answers are to be entered on the separate answer paper only. You must make sure that your name, country, number and any other information required are entered on the answer paper.

You may not have any additional papers or books on your desk while undertaking this examination. During the examination to be seen speaking to another candidate or copying another's paper will mean suspension and automatic failure of the examination. If you are not sure of the correct procedures or have any questions about any aspect of the examination you should speak only to an examiner.

The result of the examination both theory and practical will be sent to the candidate's National Federation.

January 2019



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KATA EXAMINATION

“TRUE OR FALSE”

On the answer paper put an “X” in the appropriate box. The answer to a question is true only if it can be held to be true in all situations; otherwise it is considered to be false. Each correct answer scores one point.

1. Competitors must wear a plain blue or red belt corresponding to their pool.
2. The total time allowed for the Kata and Bunkai demonstration combined, is six minutes.
3. In Kata competition slight variations as taught by the contestant's style (Ryu-ha) are permitted.
4. Glasses are forbidden in kata completion.
5. The number of Competitors will determine the number of groups to facilitate the elimination rounds.
6. The medal winners of the previous event must be seeded for next competition.
7. The right to seeding does down flow to lower places in the absence of Competitors eligible for seeding.
8. The elimination system used for kata is dividing the Competitors in equal number groups based on the number of participants.
9. The number of Competitors per group cannot exceed 8.
10. If the number of Competitors is 97 or more, the numbers of groups must be doubled to 16.
11. Judges should look for correct Kihon of the school being demonstrated.
12. The starting point for kata will marked with a small cross within the perimeter of the competition area.
13. Conformance is a consistency in the performance of the kihon of the style (ryu-ha) in the kata.
14. Competitors from countries which are well known for producing medal winners should be given special consideration.
15. The starting point for kata performance is two metres inside the match area and facing the Chief Judge.
16. Giving a command to start and finish the kata by a team member is not considered to be an external cue.
17. The mats must form a uniformed colored surface for kata competition.
18. Judges should look for correct Kihon of the Competitor's style (Ryu-ha) being demonstrated.
19. The panel of Judges can be changed in a group for any single round.



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20. The total time allowed for the Kata & Bunkai demonstration combined, is 5 minutes.
21. In kata competition the sleeves of the karate-gi jacket may not be rolled up.
22. It is the responsibility of the coach or competitor to notify the name of the kata to score table prior each round.
23. The number of Judges per panel may be reduced to five for any competition.
24. A previously performed Kata may be repeated only if used as tie-breaker.
25. The karate-gi trousers may be slightly shorter so as to only cover half of the shin.
26. The total time allowed for the Kata and Bunkai demonstration combined, is five minutes.
27. The total time allowed for the Kata and Bunkai demonstration combined, is seven minutes.
28. The score table personnel include timekeepers, scorekeepers and caller/announcers.
29. Technical Performance and Athletic Performance are given separate scores.
30. The Judges of a kata match may not have the same nationality as either of the contestants.
31. Although ribbons and other decorations for the hair are not allowed in kumite they are permissible in kata.
32. In the bouts for medals in Team Kata competition, teams will perform a demonstration of the meaning of the Kata (Bunkai).
33. The panel of three or five Judges for each match will be designated by the Tatami Manager.
34. For competitions not counting for WKF World Ranking or Olympic standing, the number of judges may be reduced to 5.
35. The panel of five Judges for each match will be designated by the Referee Commission.
36. The total score is weighed 50% for technical performance and 50% for athletic performance.
37. Female competitors must wear a plain white T-shirt beneath the Karate jacket.
38. Female competitors can, if they want, wear a plain white T-shirt beneath the Karate jacket.
39. The trousers must be long enough to cover at least two thirds of the shin and must not reach the anklebone.
40. The wearing of unauthorised apparel, clothing or equipment is forbidden.
41. A discreet rubber band or pony tail retainer is permitted in Kata competition.
42. The competition area must be of sufficient size to permit the uninterrupted performance of Kata.
43. The matted Kumite areas are not suitable for Kata competition.
44. The karate-gi jacket may be removed during the performance of Kata.
45. Audible cues are on the same level as one would penalize a temporary loss of balance.
46. Variations as taught by the contestant's style (Ryu-ha) of Karate will not be permitted.
47. The score table must be notified of the choice of Kata prior to each round.



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48. A team which does not perform the bow at the completion of the Bunkai performance will be disqualified.
49. The number of Kata required is dependent on the number of individual competitors or teams entered.
50. In the event of a tie, the competitors must perform an additional kata.
51. In assessing the performance of a contestant or team the Judges will evaluate the performance based on the two major criteria.
52. The two major criteria are: technical performance and athletic performance.
53. Causing injury by lack of controlled technique during Bunkai is considered a foul.
54. The three major criteria are: conformance, correct breathing and technical difficulty.
55. The three major criteria are: strength, speed and timing.
56. The three major criteria are: synchronisation, stances and timing.
57. Speed and balance are part of the athletic performance.
58. Strength is part of the athletic performance.
59. Correct breathing, techniques and transitional movements are part of the technical performance.
60. Difficulty of the Kata and stances are part of the technical performance.
61. Strength, speed, balance and rhythm are part of the athletic performance.
62. In Bunkai performance; transitional movements and control are part of the technical performance.
63. In Bunkai performance; balance, timing and speed are part of the athletic performance.
64. In Bunkai performance: strength, timing and stances are part of the athletic performance.
65. Bunkai are to be given equal importance as the Kata itself.
66. Excessive bowing before starting the performance is considered a foul.
67. Causing injury by lack of controlled technique during Bunkai is a disqualification.
68. Both two major criteria must be given equal importance in the evaluation of the performance.
69. Performing the wrong kata or announcing the wrong kata leads to disqualification.
70. Stamping the feet, slapping the chest, arms, or karate-gi, will be taken into account by the Judges when arriving at a decision.
71. A competitor will not be disqualified if he does a distinct pause or stop in the performance for several seconds.
72. Bunkai are not to be given equal importance as the kata itself.
73. Interference with the function of the Judges leads to disqualification.
74. The use of audible cues from any other person, including other team members is considered a foul.



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75. If the competitor's belt falls off during the performance of kata the competitor will be disqualified.
76. Failure to follow the instructions of the Chief Judge or other misconduct is considered a foul.
77. Failure to follow the instructions of the Chief Judge or other misconduct leads to disqualification.
78. Exceeding the total time limit of 6 minutes duration for Kata and Bunkai is considered a foul.
79. In Team Kata, all three team members must start and finish the Kata facing in the same direction and towards the Chief Judge.
80. Kata performance must be realistic in fighting terms and display concentration, power, and potential impact in its techniques.
81. Causing injury by lack of controlled technique during Bunkai is not considered a foul.
82. Minor loss of balance must not be considered in the evaluation of the Kata performance.
83. Exceeding the total time limit of 5 minutes duration for Kata and Bunkai leads to disqualification.
84. Kata performance must demonstrate strength, balance and speed.
85. Minor loss of balance must be considered in the evaluation of the Kata performance.
86. Asynchronous movement, such as delivering a technique before the body transition is completed is considered a foul.
87. Inappropriate exhalation will be taken into account by the Judges when arriving at a decision.
88. In team kata; failing to do a movement in unison is not considered a foul.
89. Performing a movement in an incorrect or incomplete manner is considered a foul.
90. Time wasting, including prolonged marching, excessive bowing or prolonged pause before starting the performance is considered a foul.
91. Stamping the feet, slapping the chest, arms, or karate-gi, are audible cues.
92. The use of audible cues is not considered a foul.
93. Inappropriate exhalation is not an audible cue.
94. Failure to fully execute a block or punching off target is considered a foul.
95. Causing injury by lack of controlled technique during Bunkai is allowed.
96. The members of the team must demonstrate competence in all aspects of the Kata performance, as well as synchronisation.
97. Commands to start and stop the performance will be taken into account by the Judges when arriving at a decision.
98. It is the responsibility of the President of the National Federation to ensure that the Kata as notified to the score table is appropriate for that particular round.
99. While performing Bunkai, after being downed the competitor should either raise to one knee or stand up.



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100. Ties may occur in kata competition.
101. When resolving ties, the Competitors original score is not retained in the record.
102. A round is to be understood as one performance of all the Competitors of a group.
103. The Competitor must wait on the tatami for the announcement of the evaluation at the end of performance.
104. At the end of each group only the top two competitors will pass to the next round.
105. The competitors can select any Kata from the official Kata list.
106. A team which does not perform the bow at the beginning and completion of the performance will be disqualified.
107. The use of traditional weapons, ancillary equipment or additional apparel is allowed.
108. The performance in individual Kata is evaluated from the bow starting the kata until the bow ending the Kata
109. Belt coming loose to the extent that it is coming off the hips during the performance is a foul.
110. Belt coming loose to the extent that it is coming off the hips during the performance is a disqualification.
111. If a contestant is disqualified, the score is indicated by a 0.0 .
112. There are 8 criteria in technical performance.
113. Although performing a scissor takedown technique (Kani Basami) to the neck area in performing Bunkai is prohibited, a scissor takedown to the body is permitted.
114. For the medal bouts, only the top 3 Competitors of each of the two groups will pass.
115. Performing a scissor takedown technique (Kani Basami) to the neck area in Bunkai is not prohibited.
116. The Competitors will step back out of the Match Area, following the bows, first "SHOMEN NI REI" - and then "OTAGAI NI REI".
117. Audible cues must be considered very serious fouls by the judges in their evaluation of the performance of the kata.
118. The Tatami Managers will provide the RC Chairman and Secretary with a list containing 8 officials from their own Tatami after the last bout of the eliminatory rounds is finished
119. Conformance is one of the criteria of athletic performance.
120. Conformance is one of the criteria of technical performance.