



The AJKD Testing Policy::

What is the purpose of testing and what are the instructors looking for in a test?::

There are many different ways of looking at testing and rank.

To give some context... in the days of Bruce Lee, there existed a self-righteous pride that went along with achieving different color belts to signify rank in martial art schools. People actually believed that because they had a higher rank belt they were a better fighter. Bruce rightly pointed out that the color of the belt a person wears has little, or nothing, to do with how well they could defend themselves in a fight. As such he did away with belt and rank in general, but rather broke down his teaching into different levels of understanding.



It is important to note however, that he still did break down his curriculum into levels and tested on them.

Why would he do this if he didn't believe in rank? Good question.

I believe the answer rests in yet another question, "What's the real purpose of any test in life?"

Answer: To see how well an individual has learned the lessons given to them in a given subject and to see if they can apply what they have learned.

Breaking down the curriculum into levels accomplishes a few

significant things.

First, it gives the student an understanding of what he/she knows and still has yet to learn or has/hasn't gained a level of proficiency in. A "barometer," if you will.

Second, it gives the student a sense of [proper, not prideful or foolhardy] confidence of the techniques they have "passed inspection" on [tested in].

Third, it gives the instructor an immediate reference point of things to work on with that individual making it easier to teach in a linear flow within a curriculum.

Did you notice [in the last paragraph] that it was never mentioned how good of a fighter a student would be after testing? That's because testing and gaining rank won't make you a great fighter and it's not necessarily intended to. Testing gives a reference point for both the student and the instructor to go by for *skills and techniques* only.

That's the purpose of testing.

At AJKD, there are no testing fees except for the Black Sash level test [this will be discussed with the individual when it becomes time for that test]. There are no

fees for testing so that no one can say that at AJKD the ranks are "paid for" and mean nothing. *Our ranks are solid and everyone has to work for them, or they don't pass.* Period!



Much unlike many other schools, students at AKJD are called upon by the instructor to test, not the reverse. In fact, it is generally frowned upon for a student to ask to test, due to the lack of humility this exhibits. The instructor makes this judgment call trying to assure they are not pushing the student at a pace they are not ready for and having assurance that the student will pass the test and have the proficiency with which to do so. Having said

that, if the Instructor asks the student to test, it is not guaranteed the student will pass and therefore can 'slack off' in his or her training. On the contrary. It is a '**wake up call**' to the student to push harder and pay more attention and refine the skills necessary to pass the test.



The best ways for a student to show interest in testing to the instructor [in no specific order] are;
to have consistent attendance [70% of the time or more – see 'attendance' above]
to show a sincere hunger and desire for more instruction and training
to show dedication to practicing outside of class [believe me, it shows when this is happening or not – I can tell. In fact, everybody can.]

The first few tests are a blend made up largely of physical fitness and core fundamental fighting techniques, setting the pace for the levels to come. I purposely make them grueling! Start preparing now!

The following levels up to level 6 are more based on technique and applying the technique fluidly but are still very physically challenging.

Levels 7, 8 and 9 are geared towards the student taking the foundational skills and techniques and blending them in their own personalized way.

The Black Sash test is a 3-day long test [usually over a Thursday through Saturday] that combines everything the student has learned and pushes the student physically, and intellectually, all while expecting superb and precise technique. A person's character and caliber are put on display. The Black Sash is comprehensive above all the rest.

We set the bar high! We are pleased to have you carry on that tradition with us!