

The Chinese Guqin Association, in Taipei Taiwan, holds **Guqin certification examinations** in the spring and autumn every year. This examination is designed to encourage qin practitioners to improve their skills and to give qualifications for Guqin teachers and associate teachers as lecturers. Multiple scores will be made according to the disciplines (form, quality, artistic skill, and the Dao). The subjects (theories of knowledge and research results), and the overall performance will be used to objectively assess the candidates' learning achievements. This is the current standard for the Qin cultural professional certification. In order to encourage students to improve their skills, the association offers discounts on registration fees for the first and second levels for school students. For Qin friends from all over the world, we welcome you to sign up and participate.

Starting from Fall 2021, The online graded exam has been provided. Candidates can first propose the name and version of the piece they want to play if it is not listed on the grading list (please see below). After the Chinese Guqin Association determines the grade level of the piece, the candidate will be notified, and then take the exam. **The exam will be all in Chinese.**

For assessment, it will test on-the-spot performance status and understanding of the way of Qin, music interpretation, manners and clothing, etc. It is basically divided into four categories: Form, Quality, Artistic skill, and the Dao.

**Form-** Appearance; Stage manner

**Quality-** Music integrity (the state of being whole) ; Left and Right hand techniques

**Artistic skill-** Rhythm accuracy; Variation of tempo; Pitches accuracy; Tone color expression; Volume control.

**Dao-** Meaning of the music; Feeling of the music; Expression beyond the sound

If the candidate can use two cameras at the same time, one to take the panoramic view and the other to take the closer view of the hands, it will help the examiners to see more clearly. Please use an external microphone and place it closer to the Qin to make the sound clear. In addition to the performance of the qin playing, it is also required to describe the meaning or background of the music and explain your feelings.

For the list of grades and more details in Chinese please visit:

[www.taipeiqinhall.com/guqintest.html](http://www.taipeiqinhall.com/guqintest.html) (中文)

**Notes for registration:**

This test needs to be registered level by level (the content of each level is as attached). After passing the test, you can advance to the next level, but you can also directly apply for the third level.

At most, you can register for two levels at the same time. If the lower level fails, you cannot advance to the next level (the registration fee for the next level will be refunded to the candidate after deducting 30% of the handling fee).

If you need to submit a thesis for certain application levels, please submit it on the day of the test. The file must indicate: the name of the candidate, the number of application levels, the number of words in the content, and reference materials.

**Registration fees for all levels of verification: TBD**

**Method of Payment: TBD**

**Registration method: TBD**

**Precautions:**

Fill out the registration form and pay the registration fee. After completing the registration procedures, we will send the test notice/notice newsletter via email.

On the day of the test, the applicant can enter the venue with the test notice and identification certificate of the applicant.

Precautions before the test:

- (1) Please confirm whether the information filled in the registration form is correct. Incomplete application materials will not be accepted.
- (2) The date, time, and venue of the test are subject to the test notice, and the test taker is not allowed to change it.
- (3) If the registration is overdue, the information is incorrect or incomplete, it will be returned without notice.
- (4) Due to force majeure factors (such as natural disasters, etc.), the examination cannot be held as scheduled, the association may separately announce the relevant measures.

**Notification of verification results:**

A notice of score results will be sent after the verification. Those who pass the verification will be issued a verification certificate of that level, which will be announced on the official website of the Chinese Guqin Society, New York Qin Society and other public platforms.

**Contents of verification at all levels:**

Level	Elective (pick two)	Notes
1	[ Xiān Wēng Cāo ] [ Zhú Zhī Cí ] [ Làng Tāo Shā ] [ Kàigǔ Yín ] [ Xiāng Fē Yuàn ] [ Tàigǔ Yǐng ]	Level 1 and 2, if playing with singing, the score will add extra credit.
2	[Guān Shān Yuè] [ Qiū Fēng Cí] [Guī Qù Lái Cí] [ Qiū Jiāng Yè Bó] [Jiǔ Kuáng]	

Level	Required	Elective (pick one)	Notes
3	[ Méihuā Sān Nòng ]	[ Fèng Huáng Tái Shàng Yì Chuī Xiāo ] *	* Qin Songs (Playing with singing) Singing is also

		[ Liáng Xiāo Yīn ] * [ Yángguān Sān Dié ]	included in the scoring standard. Please see "Verification Scoring Standard"
4	[ Píngshā Luòyàn ]	[ Shí Shàng Liú Quán ] [ Pǔān Zhòu ]	

Level	Required (pick one)	Elective (pick one)	Oral Exam - Paper report or thesis
5	[ Yi Gù Rén ]	[ Shén Rén Chàng ] [ Cháng Tíng Yuàn Mǎn ] * [ Gé Xī Méi Lìng ] * [ Zuìyú Chàng Wǎn ]	1, Briefly talk about one Qin piece in different versions by playing sound recordings to compare and appreciate the differences. 2, Demonstrate and explain the Qin tuning, stringing, knot making and how to take care of the Qin.
6		[ Yáng Chūn ] [ Qiūsè Yíng ] [ Gūguǎn Yùshén ]	Submit thesis : Both need to answer. 5000 words maximum for each thesis. 1, Briefly analyse Qin history and style of school. 2, Explain the essential points of Qin making.
7	[ Chǔgē ] [ Yúgē ] [ Áo Ài ]	Qin Song Singing: Free to pick one qin song to play and sing	Same as Above

Level	Elective (pick two)	Oral Exam - Paper report or thesis
8	[ Xiāo Xiān Shuǐ Yún ] [ Wū Yè Tí ]	Submit thesis with unlimited word count, both need to answer: 1, Briefly talk about Qin aesthetics

	[ Mòzi Bēi Sī ]	2, Discuss the relationships between Qin playing and the title of the piece, preface, footnote, and titles of the paragraphs.
9	[ Lí Sāo ] [ Qíagē ] [ Hújiā Shíbā Pāi ]	Submit thesis with unlimited word count, all three need to answer: 1, Pick one Ming dynasty Qin handbook and talk about its content and importance. 2, Discuss the relationships between the Qin's sound and its fingering techniques, musical phrases and paragraphs. 3, Discuss string making and Appreciation of Silk Qin strings.

Level 10 is a special exam, and the time will be specified separately.

Level	Required	Oral Exam - Paper report or thesis
10	[ Yō Lán ]	Oral Exam 1, Demonstrate Improvisation and composition during the exam 2, Demonstrate Dapu (Will provide qin tablature by exam provider) 3, Relative Research of Qin Lv and Qin Diao (candidate provides the study record)  Thesis Submit a thesis on the theme of [Yolan] and debate/ answer questions during the exam.

**Verification Scoring Standard:**

The scoring method for "Qin Playing" is divided into Form, Quality, Artistic Skill, and The Dao, accounting for 50% of the total score; "Qin Song" singing accounts for 50% of the total score.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Score %</b>	<b>Content</b>
Qin Performance	Form 15%	Appearance/ Stage manner: dress expression posture deportment  Describe the meaning or background of the music and explain your feelings.
	Quality 30%	★ Music integrity (the state of being whole) ; ★ Left and Right hand techniques
	Artistic Skill 25%	▲ Rhythm accuracy; Variation of tempo; ▲ Pitch accuracy; Tone color expression; Volume control.
	Dao 30%	★ Meaning of the music; Feeling of the music; Expression beyond the sound
Qin Song Singing	Singing 50%	★ Pronunciation; ★ Intonation; ★ The coordination of singing and playing; Breath control; Overall emotional performance.

Passing criteria:

1, The highest score of performance in the technical examination is 100 points. When the total score is 60 points, and the score in the "★" item can reach 8 points, and 4 points in the "▲" item will pass the test.

2, Those who include subject oral examinations, reports or essays in the examination level will be scored separately. Each with a full score of 100 points, oral examinations up to 60 points; report or thesis up to 60 points can pass the test.

There will be at least three judges (for fairness):

1. The chief examiner- Currently served by Yuan Jung Ping. The chief examiner must be qualified to pass the tenth level examination, and have a certain teaching experience and publications (50% of the grading ratio)

2. Notary public-Invite- Who will be a cross-over, such as senior people in the art field or other music fields for example. (25%)

3. Participants who have passed the exam- Who are one or several levels above can evaluate candidates who are one or several levels below (25%)

The exam results and feedback from judges will be sent to examiners.

Essays submitted by candidates, if they pass the test, may be included in the test essay booklet and published.

Translated by Peiyong Chang