

IndianRaga Certification

Guideline to Evaluators

The grades we give in the IndianRaga Certification are High Distinction, Distinction, Proficient and Retake. While evaluating, please consider the following:

High Distinction: This should only be given to those who are exceptional at their level, and demonstrate a natural flair for the art form and its foundational concepts such that one would consider them ready, or atleast Proficient, for the next higher level already. Please note, High Distinction is not to be given just because someone is young and has learned a lot of material - it is reserved for the top 0.1% who have shown well-rounded mastery for their level. A High Distinction candidate would be someone you would be proud to showcase at a performance and claim they are among the very best at their level. The individual scores on each question should reflect this, and would mostly be 5's with maybe one 4 at max. Nothing lower.

Distinction: This grade should be given to candidates who are perfect technically as well as demonstrate strong well-rounded ability that makes them ready to take the next level. This is different from High Distinction in that there may be a few errors that they would need to work on, even if they are minor. The individual scores on each question should not have too many 5's. There will be mostly 4's, and max of one or two 3s. Distinction candidates are those who have successfully mastered the material till that level - while on one hand they are not as exceptional and outstanding as High Distinction, on the other hand they also do not need to worry that there are aspects of their training that are lacking and need to be substantially improved before proceeding.

Proficient: This grade should be given to candidates who you wouldn't want to fail, but who are also not perfect at what they are doing. Grades on individual questions will mostly be 3's, maybe a couple 2s, or maybe a couple 4s, not more. The idea of this grade is to make the candidate think about whether they are focusing on all components of their performance, and get meaningful feedback to go back and review. Many a times you will see candidates getting this grade who may have put in a lot of effort on mastering the technical aspects in a 'literal' sense - so they may be on sruthi but are shouting it out instead of singing in a pleasant way, or in dance they are on point but the transition between moves is jerky and without any grace. It is important to point out specifically what is missing and preventing them from being a Distinction candidate, and this category is the one that would benefit most from the IndianRaga Certification

Retake: In the IndianRaga Certification, candidates can start from any level of their choice. So an outright Retake candidate would be someone who has picked a higher level without any mastery of fundamentals, so we need to redirect them to a lower level. Retake is also given when a candidate has been Proficient or even Distinction level in most questions but has done really poorly in one question. Performance across all questions must be consistent! Retake is also given when the candidate has not answered the question suitably and has gone off on a tangent even if what he/she has done is artistically valid. Finally, retake of course is given if someone has knowledge of a lot of material but is doing the araimandi wrong the whole time, or cannot sing a basic few notes in sruthi. Candidates awarded Retake get to redo it at a much lower price, just FYI.

For all grades, detailed timestamp based feedback is critical not only for what is to be improved, but also for what is working well. Please do not say 'All good' for High Distinction candidates in 'What can be improved' and likewise do not leave the 'What is working well' section blank for Retake or Proficient candidates.