

Royal Kennel Club JEP Levels & Criteria

Level 1

- Minimum of five years proven interest in pedigree dogs
- Attend a Conformation and Movement seminar hosted by a Royal Kennel Club Accredited Trainer
- Complete a minimum of two full-day stewarding appointments
- You must attend a Requirements of a Dog Show Judge seminar with an Accredited Trainer—either in person or via Zoom—before attempting the associated exam (available in person or online via the Royal Kennel Club Academy; exam effective from 1 January 2024). Please note: The seminar must be completed prior to taking the exam. If the exam is taken beforehand, it will not be valid, and you will be required to retake it after attending the seminar.
- Pass the Points of a Dog assessment conducted by a Royal Kennel Club Accredited Trainer (effective from 1 January 2024)

Eligibility to judge

Up to three classes (four if one is a puppy class) for any breed at limited or open shows.

Level 2

First breed:

- Attend a breed appreciation day (BAD) and pass a multiple-choice examination (MCE) for the respective breed.
- View ring stewarding seminar and take online quiz.
- Complete critique writing seminar and take online quiz.

Subsequent breeds

- Attend a breed appreciation day (BAD) and pass a multiple-choice examination (MCE) for each breed.
Note: Not mandatory for group judge for breeds in the group that they are not approved at level 4, but attendance strongly recommended.

Eligibility to judge

- Unlimited number of classes for the respective breed at limited, open or championship shows (no CCs).
- Any variety classes, groups and best in show at limited shows.

Level 3

- Undergo minimum of three mentoring sessions with a minimum of 12 months between first and third session
- Be observed judging a breed club show, breed supported entry show or championship show without CCs once mentoring sessions have been undertaken
- Complete remaining 10 full-day stewarding appointments (onetime qualification)
- Have owned/bred a minimum of three dogs when they obtained their first entry in The Royal Kennel Club Stud Book – save for exceptional circumstances (one-time qualification for first breed in which a judge awards CCs)

- Attended the appropriate sub-group field trial/open gundog working test for first gundog breed or ring procedure at licensed shows (German Shepherd Dog education programme) online exam (one-time qualification)
- Have achieved the relevant hands-on experience in line with the stated requirements for the relevant breed: 60 Dogs

Eligibility to judge

- Unlimited number of classes for the respective breed at limited, open or championship shows (no CCs)
- Any variety classes groups and best in show at limited shows

Level 4 CC Judge

- Attend and passed a breed-specific assessment for the specific breed run by the Royal Kennel Club
- For fourth and subsequent breeds - attend and pass the Eye for a Dog assessment

Eligibility to judge

- Award Challenge Certificates in the respective breed
- Any variety classes, groups and best in show at open and limited shows

Extracted from the KC website December 2025:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/events-and-activities/dog-showing/judging-dog-shows/>