

Belt Factory Quiz

Once again, "Belt Factory" is a term used by martial artists to describe a school where image or profit is of a higher importance than standards.

Please use the following statements to assess each school that you are interested in joining. Record the points associated with each statement that matches the school and total the points when you have completed the quiz. Results for the quiz are at the bottom of the page. The more points accumulated, the more likely the school is a belt factory. Your goal is to find a school that has as close to 0 points as possible.

STATEMENTS:

POINTS:

Students get promoted every 2-3 months automatically (and if they are not ready - get a "makeup" test 1 month later).	20 points
Has dan level black belts under the age of 18 <i>OR</i> kids that hold 2nd, 3rd degree black belts.	15 points
Pressures you to sign a multi-year contract or does not offer short-term contracts.	10 points
Family members who receive belts at the same time (not everyone learns at the same pace).	10 points
Has majority of students in their "after school program" or "summer camp".	10 points
There are consistently more than 20 students per instructor.	10 points
Offers "Black Belt Club" and <i>GUARANTEES</i> a black belt within a certain time frame.	10 points
All students pass test - no possibility of failing the test (not really a test if there is no possibility of failing).	10 points
Has less than 10% of their student body consisting of adults.	5 points
Instructor claims to belong to an organization that <u>cannot</u> be traced to a well known legitimate organization.	5 points
Instructor is younger than other instructors that hold similar rank.	5 points
Instructor holds high level rankings (master/grandmaster) in a large variety of styles or arts.	5 points
Is located in a high traffic area (next to a grocery store, shopping mall, etc).	5 points
Has testing fees that escalate with rank (white belt \$25, yellow belt \$30, green belt \$50, etc).	5 points
Is open every day, but you can only attend 2 classes per week.	5 points

If points total between 5 and 10 - *probably a pretty good school.*

If points total between 15 and 20 - *decent school, just discuss your concerns with head instructor.*

If points total between 25 and 30 - *keep looking, you can probably find a better school.*

If points total more than 35 - *Look for another school - this school is a complete waste of your time and money!*