According to Grandmaster Tanemura, a shinobi warrior tradition can be traced back through almost 1,000 years of Japanese history (since 12th Cent.). Training in this tradition was rigorous and very comprehensive, drawing from 36 distinct martial skill areas (Ninpo Sanjurokkei). This extensive repertory of combat arts was created by combining two separate curricula: 18 conventional combat skill areas (bugei juhappan), widely known and practiced by samurai clans; and 18 unconventional arts (Ninja juhakkei) that were developed and practiced by a small number of shinobi clans. Both lists evolved over the centuries as new combat skills were created and obsolete ones fell into disuse. Below is the final form of both lists, more or less fixed by circumstances occurring at the beginning of the Meiji Era (1868).

**Samurai Juhappan**

- Ju-Jutsu—unarmed defense techniques
- Ken-Jutsu—sword techniques
- Rokushakubo-Jutsu—full staff techniques
- Naginata-Jutsu—halberd techniques
- So-Jutsu—spear techniques
- Kisha-Jutsu—horseback archery
- Shuriken-Jutsu—blade throwing techniques
- Kusarigama-Jutsu—chain and sickle techniques
- Ba-Jutsu—horsemanship techniques
- Iai-Jutsu—draw-and-cut techniques
- Kusarifundo-Jutsu—chain and weight techniques
- Jo-Jutsu—three-quarter staff techniques
- Kyu-Jutsu—archery techniques
- Hojo-Jutsu—binding techniques
- Jutte-Jutsu—iron rod techniques
- Ho-Jutsu—canon techniques
- Yoroi-Kumiuchi—fighting in armor
- Suiren—swimming

**Ninja Juhakkei**

- Tai-Jutsu—unarmed defense techniques
- Bi-Ken-Jutsu—secret sword techniques
- Rokushakubo-Jutsu—full staff techniques
- Naginata-Jutsu—halberd techniques
- So-Jutsu—spear techniques
- Kisha-Jutsu—horseback archery
- Shuriken-Jutsu—blade throwing techniques
- Kusarigama-Jutsu—chain and sickle techniques
- Henso-Jutsu—disguise techniques
- Kusarifundo-Jutsu—chain and weight techniques
- Hojo-Jutsu—walking techniques
- Inton-Jutsu—disappearing techniques
- Bisento-Jutsu—battlefield halberd techniques
- Sanjakubo-Jutsu—short staff techniques
- Kakushibuki-Jutsu—secret weapon techniques
- Ninyaku-Jutsu—medical techniques
- Tenmon Chimon—meteorology & geology
- Seishinteki Kyoyo—spiritual refinement
- Gunryaku Heiho—combat strategies