

THE SOVEREIGN TYRANT
Kakeru Ryuen

List made by The Eagle Union
Special thanks to
Cento, Meo, Aaradhy, Nucha, Inferno, Dax PMFT, Debate Enjoyer

>>STATUS - LESS THAN 50% DONE, VERY UNORGANIZED<<

Red - Strategy, Planning, Tactics
Blue - Detective skills (perception, logical reasoning, observation)
Purple - Manipulation & Deception
Orange - Anticipation & Predictions
Green - Others
Aqua - Categories

BACKSTORY

(wip)

At a very young age, Ryuen was able to recognize his own abnormality when compared to others. He recalled an event during ELEMENTARY SCHOOL where his class was in an uproar from seeing a snake; even various adults who were supposed to be mature lost their calm and desperately called for help. Ryuen himself was the only one to approach, proceeding to fearlessly bash the snake with a rock, mentally suppressing all of the screams which followed.

“Prologue: Ryuuen Kakeru's Monologue

It was during elementary school that I realized I was abnormal.

During an excursion, I found a huge snake near our camp. I recall my class being in an uproar from it.

People watching from faraway, people panicking nearby and people who weren't all that interested in it. There were various reactions and even adults who were supposed to be mature lost their calm and desperately called for help.

I grabbed a huge rock I found nearby and swung it at the head of the snake. I didn't even fear being bitten. There was a scream, and the panic of the teachers followed. I didn't even register it.”

Excerpt From
Youkoso Jitsuryoku Shijou Shugi no Kyoushitsu e - Volume 07
Kinugasa Shougo

Ryuen knew he didn’t do this out of goodwill, rather he only wondered why everyone else felt the need to be afraid; in other words fear was a quality which he and others around him didn’t share. Ryuen realized this was his first contact with his own violent side, simultaneously realizing the catalyst for the formation of his ideology.

Ryuen monologues about how “Fear” and “Joy” are two sides of the same coin. Even though that truth was paper thin to everyone else in this world, the world itself was ruled by ‘violence’. Ryuen recognized that ‘status’ within this world is determined by one’s capacity for violence. He noticed the joy he felt upon seeing the snake’s corpse under him and realized that was truly his first ever victory.

“It's not like I wanted to be a hero or anything. I was just confused why there was such a need to be afraid.

That was my first contact with a hidden side of myself. And at the same time I knew, the moment the enemy fell at my feet, I could feel a large amount of adrenaline rushing through my brain. This was my first victory.

"Fear" and "joy" are two sides of the same coin. That truth was paper thin in this world.

The world is ruled by 'violence'. Your 'status' in this world is determined by your capacity for 'violence'. I saw the corpse of the snake beneath me and my heart was filled with joy. Ever since then, I have had many enemies both internal and external.”

Excerpt From
Youkoso Jitsuryoku Shijou Shugi no Kyoushitsu e - Volume 07
Kinugasa Shougo

Ryuen as an elementary schooler showed little reaction to what made many others fear. This along with recognizing his own abnormality, help him recognize his own ideology in the making

Ever since that incident, Ryuen has been pursuing his enemies with violence, even when outnumbered, he continued exercising ‘violence’ upon them to win. Even when outmatched, he only thought about revenge and ways of turning the situation around. With perseverance, he was able to overcome all of them.

“Sometimes, when I was surrounded by enemies, I kept on exercising 'violence' to win. And before my overwhelming might, all of them fell at my feet. I was never

afraid. I always only thought about revenge and turning the situation around on my enemies. They all eventually fell prostrate before me."

Excerpt From
Youkoso Jitsuryoku Shijou Shugi no Kyoushitsu e - Volume 07
Kinugasa Shougo

Ryuen has never felt fear in his life. This is what separates him from other geniuses within the series. His absence of fear enables him to think of and implement unconventional solutions to novel problems. Throughout his life, Ryuen was able to rely on his ability to generate creative ideas by exploring many possibilities in conjunction with his ability to think quickly and logically to overcome limitations he faces whilst not being held back by fear. Although Ryuen has never deluded himself into thinking he is a genius, the abilities displayed throughout the series make him an excellent candidate for the title of creative genius.

As stated within his monologue, the real 'elite' is a person whose capacity for violence is unparalleled: a human who never feels fear. But it was then Ryuen recognized a personal challenge; with every fallen enemy his life grew more boring. There was not a person who could "truly" defeat him. If there was someone who could do so, Ryuen would call that person "death". Eventually, the time for a person to "truly" defeat him arrives when Ryuen enters the Advanced Nurturing High School, the enemy in question referred to as "The Grim Reaper " (Ayanokoji).

"The real 'elite' is a person whose capacity for 'violence' is unparalleled. And a human being who never feels 'fear'.

But here a problem lies, with every fallen enemy every day started to grow boring for me. Because in the end, there was not a single person capable of beating me. If there is something that could finally beat me, that thing can only be described as "death"."

Excerpt From
Youkoso Jitsuryoku Shijou Shugi no Kyoushitsu e - Volume 07
Kinugasa Shougo

(Analogical Reasoning, Abstract Reasoning, Emotional Realization, Emotional Engagement, Mental Fortitude).

INTRODUCTION ARC

(Y1V1) - Though the school didn't announce it, Ryuuen reasoned through class divergence and separation between private points as well as class points that a form of collective punishment would likely be applied to misbehavior; this was common in many schools throughout Japan, thus it would be reasonable to assume via a probability Occam's Razor that ANHS would be much the same.

(Y1V1) - Soon after enrollment, Ryuuen decided to take over Class C by force; he managed this through means of sheer violence and intimidation, overpowering the likes of Ishizaki and Komiya, and though his actions were ignored at first by his classmates, they soon became unbearable, and the students of Class C had no choice but to submit to Ryuuen if they wanted him to cease, as they could not simply report him to the school seeing as that would harm the class itself, something of which Ryuen was acutely aware.

His relentless attacks eventually even subdued the likes of Albert, who was many times stronger than him, to submit to him and respect his standing as leader.

Ryuuen's actions forced his class to silently accept his leadership, and he was the first class leader in his year to get complete control over his own class.

"Right after being assigned to Class C, Ryuuen Kakeru started to control the class. Of course, the people in the class didn't acknowledge him at first and defied him.

Ishizaki and Komiya didn't need to be said, even Kaneda didn't acknowledge Ryuuen's attitude of using power to control. Ryuuen, with that kind of attitude, would naturally be alienated and suppressed by class C.

It even gave people the feeling that abuse would appear inside the class. However, that guy did a frontal resistance. He didn't even care about the existence

of the surveillance cameras and school rules and sent Ishizaki and the others flying -- Honestly, I was shocked at that moment.

But Ryuuen had understood from the very beginning. The conflicts within the class couldn't be reported to the school. Because that would be the same as shooting oneself in the foot.

Ryuuen repeated those indiscriminate things multiple times and at the same time he saw through the closest point to the limits of the rules."

Excerpt From
Youkoso Jitsuryoku Shijou Shugi no Kyoushitsu e - Volume 07
Kinugasa Shougo

(Knowledge Application, Novel Complex Problem Solving, Direct Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation, Abductive Reasoning, Leadership, Logical Manipulation).

Ryuen caught a glimpse of what the school had to offer during his takeover of class C. Evidently, the environment encouraged using your own class to strategize against other classes. Additionally, working out the underlying structure of the school's system would significantly improve the fortitude or coverage of any strategic exploits and the soundness of any logical conclusions.

(Y1V2) - Sudo, a class D student who was clearly short-tempered and had caused minor trouble with other students since enrollment was an excellent target for Ryuen's first plan. Sudo was also the first student nominated to be a basketball player as a first year which is a massive honor. Although impressive, it could also potentially create envy within his peers. Two students within class C were also a part of the basketball team which under the prior assumption would create some convincing narrative for a conflict between them.

What made it even better is that Sudo was in class D, which was considered a defective class and the least competent among the first years. It was especially clear when class D received zero class points after the first month due to their misbehavior with Sudo playing a major part in that outcome. The idea being that, by involving him in a big case that required a trial, Ryuen would be able to manipulate

class D into division and anticipate the students of the class giving up on Sudo and refusing to cooperate in order to resolve his case.

So Sudo, who's short-tempered, causes trouble regularly, and has a lack of competent allies finds himself in a bad situation making him the perfect muse for Ryuen's first scheme.

(Emotional Understanding, Profiling, Inductive Reasoning, Logical Prediction, Planning).

(Y1V2) - With this Ryuen acted on his first plan to fabricate a case where Sudo was accused of attacking and injuring the two aforementioned class C students. Why didn't Ryuen just use one of his classmates to act as a victim rather than using multiple? Because he can push the limits of the school's system better this way. An individual like Sudo who is a stellar basketball player being able to beat up one person seems entirely plausible, but for him to fight and injure three people simultaneously, all having decent physical abilities, would be far more questionable. This is Ryuen's aim; he wants to know all of the possibilities, thus this serves as a kind of test. How will the school react to such an odd case? What does it take for the school to be on your side? Does the school lean towards soundness or evidence? From all of the things that Ryuen has learned from what this environment fosters, there might be even more absurdity within the rules.

Next he needed to find a location suitable for the execution of his plan; it needed to be in a section of the school where no one would be likely to go, and if anyone ever did, then Ryuen would need to be aware of the times at which they arrive and depart. More importantly the area needed to be under no surveillance of any kind, maximizing Ryuen's control over the variables in this situation.

Evidently there was a place called "The Special Building" which contained infrequently used rooms such as the AV Room and Laboratories. There were also no cameras there and the temperature was incredibly hot and can easily cause irritation, perfect for the fabrication of a fight scene.

Ryuen ordered Ishizaki, Komiya and Kondo, two of whom were on the basketball team with Sudo, to call and meet up with him in the building. They would proceed to pick a fight with him there without the likelihood of anyone witnessing.

Sudo fought back against them and left a few scratches, but they were nowhere near serious enough to constitute grounds for a trial. Thus Ryuen decided to beat them up himself and leave enough injury so that the trial against Sudo could proceed. The three were ordered to file a complaint against Sudo to the school.

Ryuen also reported the case to Sakagami sensei, his teacher. The measures Ryuen had taken so far were able to deceive the homeroom teacher into thinking Ishizaki, Komiya and Kondo all got attacked and injured by Sudo. With that, Ryuen was able to convince Sakagami sensei into taking their side for this trial.

(Planning, Logical Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation, Observation, Fabrication, Concealment).

Ryuen gained valuable information through this trial. Firstly, he noted the school's tendency to favor those with evidence to support their claims. The three class C students accused Sudo of attacking them, presenting injuries as proof, while Sudo's self-defense argument lacked injuries to back it up.

Secondly, Ryuen noticed something broader when Ayanokoji and Ichinose countered him with a fabricated camera trap to corner the three class C boys into retracting their complaints. He realized that in cases where both parties withdraw, the school tends to overlook the incident entirely. This observation led him to conclude that the school maintains a hands-off approach to students' decision-making, fostering an environment where strategizing and deceiving each other is encouraged. These inferences will serve as valuable information for Ryuen, aiding his future strategies within the school's unique environment.

(Observation, Inductive Reasoning)

So far, Class A is the only class that has not been involved in inter-class conflict, although that's not to say they're perfect from within.

Ryuen had been trying to gather as much information as possible since he entered the school, be it information about the school itself, the point system, the students from other classes or even his own. That's why we saw his fabrication of the Sudo trial unfold; he was gathering information through various means and assessing it, all to be used to his advantage later on.

Ryuen had a lot of offscreen information gathering, including gathering information about class A; as stated during his conversation with Katsuragi during Volume 3, Ryuen is aware of the conflict within class A between the Katsuragi and Sakayanagi factions. Ryuen's information gathering also informs him that Katsuragi had recently been rejected from joining the student council, necessarily losing a bit of influence within his class to Sakayanagi's faction. From this, Ryuen was able to profile the leaders of class A.

Even though this was revealed in Volume 4, it's evident that Ryuen made these inferences before that due to his conversation along with the contract he made with Katsuragi on the Island exam. During the Zodiac exam, Ibuki asked Ryuen about his opinion on Sakayanagi, to which he replied:

"I will save her for later, it's too much of a waste to eat her now"

This subtle gesture hinted at Ryuen's acknowledgment of Sakayanagi as a potential threat compared to other class representatives. As a prominent figure within Class A, she took on a position on par with Katsuragi, indicating that she has a level of competence worthy of attention. However, Ryuen noticed a fundamental difference in their approaches; where Katsuragi actively pursued influence through an attempt to get into the student council, Sakayanagi deliberately refrained from doing the same, even though she could have missed out on potential influence. This of course got the attention of Ryuen, leading him to speculate about the underlying motives behind Sakayanagi's inaction. Ryuen inferred that Sakayanagi's decision not to join student council might not merely be because of her own disinterest but rather a strategic move. This thought suggested to Ryuen that Sakayanagi might have predicted Katsuragi's eventual rejection from the council and the subsequent impact on his status within Class A. Ryuen perceived Sakayanagi as a potential threat, underscoring his tone regarding her within his answer given to Ibuki.

On the other hand, Katsuragi's pursuit of the student council helped Ryuen infer that he tended to pursue his goals through conventional means. Ryuen also noticed Katsuragi's demeanor when around other students; he had personally diffused conflicts involving his own classmates. An example would be Yahiko's confrontation with some class D students on the cruise ship before the start of the Island Exam, leading Ryuen to believe that Katsuragi tended to stay defensive in his approach.

Katsuragi's defensive methods coupled with his conventional means would bring a different perspective to Ryuen's more aggressive and novel way of solving problems; this difference in conjunction with his overall ability exceeding the average student, Katsuragi in Ryuen's eyes had the potential to be a significant asset to his class if he were to transfer over, should it be possible.

Ryuen used the information he gathered to figure out if transferring classes is even possible, since the teachers never explicitly addressed it.

Note to Self: Rework Number, Order and Presentation of Premises + Discuss Epistemic Merits, Soundness Qualifiers, Etc.

Premise 1: ANHS offers its students the opportunity to succeed professionally and academically.

Premise 2: Graduation benefits have a linear correspondence to the class in which you finish (Class D having the least, Class A having the most etc).

Premise 3: ANHS encourages its students to prove their worth and rise in the ranks.

Premise 4: Being a microcosm of society, ANHS also mimics the aspects of competition for success as an individual or a corporation.

Premise 5: As inferred from Ryuen's takeover of class C along with Sudo's trial, the school rules possess determined loopholes, encouraging outside-the-box thinking.

Premise 6: ANHS has a unique Private Point system that allows students to purchase anything given the correct price.

Premise 7: Capable students should have the opportunity to graduate from the top class.

Premise 8: Students with merit or those able to accumulate large sums of private points were stated by the teachers to be able to buy ANYTHING.

With this, Ryuen would be able to deduce that a class-transfer system exists and is purchasable with private points that serves as a mechanism for capable students from lower classes to access graduation benefits.

Ryuen plans to use this inference and turn the purpose of the class-transfer system completely upside down to incorporate Katsuragi, who is a student from class A, over to class C. If Ryuen helps damage Katsuragi's image and consequently make class A unite under Sakayanagi, Katsuragi will be isolated. And from there, Ryuen could manipulate him into joining class C. By bringing out what would be Katsuragi's desire to go against Sakayanagi through offering a second chance to directly battle her.

If Ryuen were to accomplish all of that, he

In the end, even if Ryuen were to defeat Sakayanagi and get her expelled, if Katsuragi remained in Class A, that wouldn't be a favorable turn of events for Ryuen. If Katsuragi, someone who strongly prioritized defense, resumed command as leader of the class, then there was no getting around the fact that Class A would transform into a near-impenetrable fortress. However, if Katsuragi were taken out of the picture first, and then Sakayanagi was defeated afterward, Class A would collapse all at once.

(Y1V3) - After landing on the island, the teachers explain the rules of the exam to the students. Ryuuen is an unorthodox player, he doesn't abide by the rules, but

uses them creatively to his advantage, his strategy for the Deserted Island Exam shows the very first wide scale display of his style.

Basic Rules

1. Each class will be granted 300 S-points.
2. S-points can be spent to purchase items listed in the manual.
3. In addition, bonus points acquired during the test by fulfilling certain conditions will only be added on after the test is finished. They cannot be used during the test.
4. Each class will choose one student to be their leader.

Leaders cannot be changed without a legitimate reason.

5. On the last day of the test, each class can declare who they think is the leader of the other classes.
6. For each leader guessed correctly, that class receives 50 bonus points.

If the leader is guessed incorrectly, the class loses 50 points as a penalty.
In addition, a class whose leader is guessed correctly loses 50 points as a penalty and loses all bonus points gained during the test.

7. Spots on the island that serves as the testing ground can be occupied under the following conditions:
8. A special key card is required to occupy a spot.

The key card can only be used by the person designated as "leader".
Each occupation of a spot grants one bonus point to the occupying class.

9. Occupation rights expire every eight hours, and each renewal grants another bonus point to the class in question.
10. Usage of another class's occupied spot without permission will result in a 50-point penalty.

Students will receive set penalties under the following conditions:

11. Those unable to continue the test due to poor health or injury will result in a 30-point penalty and retirement.
12. Pollution of the environment will result in a 20-point penalty.
13. Each absence at 8 AM and 8 PM daily roll call will result in a 5-point penalty.
14. Violence, theft, or destruction of property against another class will result in immediate failure for the class to whom the offending student belongs and the forfeiture of all that students' private points.

The conventional way of beating this exam is to efficiently optimize point usage so that everyone within the class can survive within the 7 days where the exam takes place whilst being cautious of additional rules that could deduct points, as per the overall premise of the exam being a way to assess and hone the ability of freshman students to cooperate with another to get the tasks done.

Ryuen's creative way of thinking allows him to INSTANTLY notice that this is not the most effective way to guarantee success in this exam and that the overall premise of the exam is just a front.

Inference A: As Ryuen found out during his takeover of Class C and his fabrication of the Sudo trial, The school aims to create an environment that allows students to strategize against each other, and so this Island Exam's true nature being similar is not out of the question.

Inference B: There are more rules related to deducting points than one that helps gain points.

- Each occupation of a spot grants one bonus point to the occupying class.
- Usage of another class's occupied spot without permission will result in a 50-point penalty.
- Those unable to continue the test due to poor health or injury will result in a 30-point penalty and retirement.
- Pollution of the environment will result in a 20-point penalty.
- Each absence at 8 AM and 8 PM daily roll call will result in a 5-point penalty.
- Violence, theft, or destruction of property against another class will result in immediate failure for the class to whom the offending student belongs and the forfeiture of all that students' private points.

Inference C: However, there is one set of rules that allows classes to increase their class point by a large amount. And those rules also sabotages the other classes at the same time

- On the last day of the test, each class can declare who they think is the leader of the other classes.

- For each leader guessed correctly, that class receives 50 bonus points.
- If the leader is guessed incorrectly, the class loses 50 points as a penalty.
- In addition, a class whose leader is guessed correctly loses 50 points as a penalty and loses all bonus points gained during the test.

Inference D: The only way to increase points only comes into effect once the exam ends, so students will have to lean on to the 300 points given.

Conclusion: RIGHT AFTER hearing about the rules, Ryuen INSTANTLY COMPREHENDED ALL of it and DEDUCED that the overall premise of the exam being "a way to assess and hone the ability of freshman students to cooperate with another to get the tasks done" is only a mask. The true purpose of this exam is to test a class's cooperative abilities not just through efficient spending and caution, but also through their ability to strategize and infiltrate other classes to gather information.

(Observation, Deductive reasoning, Abstract thinking)

After grasping the exam, Ryuen puts his thoughts on to his opponents, trying to figure out the best approach he could use in order to deal with them.

Class D: After the Sudo incident, Ryuen's class is very much not on good terms with them. No matter how you look at it, they will be enemies. Although their competency is lacking. Back in the Sudo trial, class D was unable to accomplish anything before Ichinose stepped in with the camera trick. Ryuen infers that their disorganized nature will leave room for him to plant a spy if he plays his cards correctly.

Class B: Though Ryuen's relationship with them isn't as terrible as with class D, Ichinose later stated in volume 4 that Ryuen had hurt her friends in some ways before, leaving out the chances of them seeing class C as their potential ally. But due to Ichinose's outgoing nature as seen when she helped class D with the camera trick during the Sudo trial and just her reputation as a kind hearted person who is willing to help those in need, there is still possible ways for Ryuen to slip a spy in class B via gaining their trust.

Class A: The situation with Class A is a bit more complicated than the other two. Sakayanagi is currently absent from the Island exam. Ryuen deduced that her decision was another strategic move. Due to her disability, her contribution to an exam such as this would be minimal. If she decided to participate, she would only be good at giving out commands, which would be difficult due to Katsuragi's faction. Katsuragi himself on the other hand is much more capable physically whilst still having the ability to lead the class. All of this could lead to Sakayanagi losing influence whether they win the Island exam or not. And so by opting out, Sakayanagi would only lose influence if Katsuragi wins the Island Exam.

Sakayanagi deciding to exempt herself from the exam due to these reasons would incline Katsuragi to win even more. If he loses this exam without Sakayanagi even interfering anything, it would be a bad look for Katsuragi. Especially since Sakayanagi's faction currently has the upperhand in terms of numbers, losing even more to her would be detrimental.

Ryuen

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Shortly after the exam starting, Ryuuen had spoken with Katsuragi to form a deal, since every class started with 300 points except class A, which was 30 points short of that due to Arisu's absence; Ryuuen offered Katsuragi to give him equipment and supplies worth 200 points in addition to information about Class D's leader to allow him to vote on them on the last day of the exam.

In exchange, Ryuuen would receive 20k private points from every student in Class A every month until graduation, which meant Ryuuen was personally receiving 800k private points a month just from this contract, to which Katsuragi can't betray since it is an official contract signed by both Katsuragi and Ryuuen and acknowledged by the school.

Though for this contract to work, Ryuuen had to supply Katsuragi irrefutable evidence for the leader of Class D and the 200 Class Points worth of equipment in advance, this signals Ryuuen's starting point for his Deserted Island Exam Strategy, to not only complete the contract with Katsuragi, but also defeat Classes B and D's

standing and gain a valid standing for himself, though winning the exam isn't his true goal with the contract, but something a lot more long-term.

(Long-Term planning, Convergent Thinking, Negotiation)

(Y1V3) - Ryuuen initiates his strategy with a large expenditure of points, he spends 100 points on luxurious foods and drinks and reserves the remaining 200 for another component within this exam.

Ryuen would additionally act like he had no interest in the actual exam and just wanted to enjoy his time as much as possible on the island, hence the uncontrolled spending of points.

This wasting of points is a key factor in Ryuuen's upcoming tactics, first he orders Kaneda to head to the location of Ichinose's Class B camp and pretend that he was banished for his disagreement on Ryuuen's approach to this exam, due to the nature of Class B, and their primary leader Honami Ichinose, they wouldn't suspect Kaneda further after that explanation, and would accept to house him until the exam is over.

For Class D, Ryuuen's tactic had to differ, they were a lot more distrusting from Class B, Horikita Suzune was also much more wary than her class B counterpart, so Ryuuen would instead choose someone who actually hated him, and who could play the role of a banished student much more effectively against Class D, enter Ibuki, who not only genuinely hated everything about Ryuuen, but also had the will in her to actually follow through with Ryuuen's plans because her goal was to reach Class A, she accepted to get a real punch from Ryuuen to make her act all the more convincing, stationing herself next to a tree nearby the area of Class D's camp to get "accidentally" found and "reluctantly" accept their help.

One might question the rationale of Ryuuen choosing Kanade and Ibuki respectively, but it comes to no surprise as by this time he had already conquered his class and established himself as the leader and went as far as to mentally assess all of his classmates to be able to choose between them, as evident by his schemes in the previous volume where he used (the dudes from the Sudo incident) alongside Ishizaki to cause conflicts for Class D; Ryuuen understands his classmates well and is aware of their strengths and shortcomings.

Ryuuen afterward sends Kondo and Komiya to Class D's camp to provoke the students there with chip bags and soda cans, as there was no rule against visiting other camps,

The 2 students proceeded to throw jabs at the students of Class D claiming how they were barely scraping by to save points, whilst their own class, Class C was living lavishly and having fun.

This was majorly to probe Suzune to check his camp, which will allow Ryuuen in turn to paint the image of him being a selfish, ignorant leader that had no qualms about the exam and instead wanted to enjoy the vacation to its utmost, utilizing a (fake) 0 points strategy where they spend all their points at day 1 to nullify any penalties they would otherwise get, basically guaranteeing they could enjoy the island then go back on the boat and enjoy the luxuries of it for the rest of the week.

Ryuuen was a careless leader, he didn't think much of this exam.
"There's always more opportunities in the future"

These were Suzune's thoughts on how Ryuuen was thinking.

Ryuuen doesn't waste a beat to act in the most ignorant and egoistical way with his classmates, showing a full display of his image of being a faulty leader, and when further questioned, Ryuuen deliberately states proudly that he exiled Kaneda and Ibuki from his class' camp due to their disagreement on his methods, he went as far as to not even mention Kaneda's name and simply referred to him as "some other guy", in addition to showcasing a reimagining of him punching Ibuki before exiling her, which explained the bruise on her cheek that was apparent when Class D students found her, even further claiming that he'd forgive her if she came back and groveled at his feet, and suggesting they don't keep her company with them, as they'd just be wasting rations on another person for no reason.

Lastly, though Suzune argues about the error in Ryuuen's leadership, Ryuuen snaps back arguing that she is the one who has it all misunderstood, and that her efforts in this exam will bear little to no fruit in times to come.

Through this interaction, Ryuuen managed to achieve the following goals:

1. Gave Ibuki a cover against the idea of her being a spy, creating a scene that showcased she was a victim of Ryuuen's faulty leadership and abuse.
    A. She got physically attacked by Ryuuen
    B. Her hatred from his seems very genuine
    C. Even Ryuuen is advising Suzune against keeping Ibuki with them

2. Ryuuen paints a self-image of incompetency, which further causes Suzune to dismiss the idea of him being a threat, even lamenting such thoughts occurred to her.
    A. Physical Abuse
    B. Ignoring the opinions of his classmates and resulting exiling them
    C. Inability to see anything further than the present

3. In addition to the previous point, this further solidifies Ryuuen's chances to succeed in his negotiations with Katsuragi, as it would genuinely seem like Ryuuen just wants side benefits rather than to actually win the exam.
    A. 0 Points Strategy
    B. Prefers Private Points to Class Points

2 days into the exam, Ryuuen's class, save for Kaneda and Ibuki and Ryuuen himself, had already departed and propelled the boat to enjoy the rest of the exam resting on it.

Ryuen was the one buying equipment for class A so he would know the general amount of points each class needed to spend. Class B was probably focusing more on preserving points since they were semi competent, meaning they would probably spend around 100 points or less. Class D was way less competent and lost 30 points already due to Koenji deliberately retiring, so theirs would be quite low at the end. How he came to this conclusion was through his observation in volume 2, from Ryuen's perspective, Class D wasn't able to accomplish anything in Sudo's trial until Class B stepped in to help them with the camera trick. But of course Ryuen will still use Kaneda and Ibuki to keep tabs on these 2 classes.

By this point, Ryuuen as an opponent would absolutely not register for Class D, let alone Class B, so Ryuuen's spies could take action and his strategy would conclude in a success, this is Ryuuen's ideal win calculation for his class:

Exam Start: 300 points
Spending 200 on equipment for Class A: 100 points remain
Spending 100 on food and drinks: 0 points remain
37 students drop out of the exam: 0 points remain
Securing 2 spots: 0 + 26 = 26 points
guessing class B's leader: 50 + 26 = 76 points
guessing class D's leader: 50 + 76 = 126 points
guessing class A's leader: 50 + 126 = 176 points

Guessing on the other class leaders also meant they'd not only lose 50 points each, but they would lose all their bonus points from guessing other leaders and securing spots.

Ryuuen didn't wish to dominate in the exam due to his contract with Katsuragi, but he was going to gain as much as he could even if it didn't necessarily mean getting first place.

Ryuuen predicted Class A's points as follows:

Exam Start: 300 points
Arisu is absent: 270 points remain
Yahiko gets guessed as the leader: 220 points remain + all bonus points are nullified

But this begs the question of how Ryuuen was able to guess Yahiko being the leader when he only sent spies to Classes B and D.

Ryuuen managed to deduce it like this:

1. Class A is divided into 2 factions.
2. Students from different factions naturally wouldn't trust each other.
3. Arisu is absent from the exam.

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A. Students from the Sakayanagi faction can easily be dismissed from being possible candidates for being the leader in the exam. This narrows the leader down to Katsuragi's faction only
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1. Yahiko follows Katsuragi all the time, Katsuragi being as cautious as he is, wouldn't let someone be that close to him unless he fully trusted him.
2. A standard move anyone would do is assign the leader for the exam to be someone besides the leader of the class to avoid easy detection.
—---->
A. Yahiko is the leader of Class A in the special exam.
(Include scans to prove Ryuuen's observations/infernces)

Ryuen calculated Class A's points at the end of the exam to be around 220. Ryuen did his best to lower Class A's points as much as possible. Them winning by 50 points is not ideal, but this is still the best he could have done without taking even more major risks.

Katsuragi furthermore didn't suspect Ryuuen to be pulling any lines from under the table due to this very reason, as he saw Ryuuen as a "chaotic" individual, this form of approach for the exam seemed exactly like something he would do; throw away long-term benefits for short-term satisfaction, in addition to the official contract, Katsuragi was practically gaining more than Ryuuen from this deal, at least in his perspective, he's reluctant to accept, but Ryuuen's constant persuasion about the shape of Class A and his position as a leader, essentially Ryuuen was pushing Katsuragi indirectly to accept to "prove he's a better leader than Sakayanagi", Katsuragi ultimately bites, and the deal is done.

Right after being introduced to the Deserted Island exam, Ryuen swiftly understood the rules and crafted a comprehensive strategy, accounting for a long-term negotiation framework and an intricate deception scheme within an incredibly short time frame. Simultaneously, he carefully calculated the precise steps required to optimize effectiveness and resilience to his strategy.

This also marks down Ryuuen's first step to his overarching strategy to transfer Katsuragi to his class, as Ryuuen realizes that his unnatural style of wits needs to

be balanced by a more logically stood and honest individual such as Katsuragi. From now on, Ryuen will use various tactics over a long period of time in order to fully profile Katsuragi while gradually separating him from Class A in order to effectively and organically incorporate him into Class C.

(Y1V4) - In the Zodiac Exam, all first year students are divided into 12 different groups named after the animals on the Chinese Zodiac. Every group will have a mix of students across all 4 classes. Within every group, 1 student will be assigned the role of the VIP. To simply put, the key to winning this exam is to find the VIP, and for the VIP to win this exam, they will have to hide their identity. The conventional way of beating this exam would only result in you winning in your own group, in order for the class to achieve a huge victory, your classmates will have to score more wins than the other classes. Ryuen thought about this and tried ro figure out how he could beat this exam as a whole.

The group that Ryuen was in, the Dragon group, interestingly stacked all of the key players across all 4 classes, including Katsuragi, Kanzaki, Hirata, Kushida, Suzune and of course Ryuen himself. There's a chance this grouping was not by coincidence. It could be that the groups were being formed based on academic performances, but that's obviously not the case, due to Ryuen's presence.

There could also be the probability of the group being formed based on the status of the individual, but Ichinose is missing, despite being an important figure within class B, and even then, it's not like every single one in the Dragon group also had high social status, there were a few not well known faces, so Ryuen can eliminate that possibility.

Everyone in the Dragon group had great physical abilities, including all of the key players named, but powerhouses like Sudo, Albert and Koenji are absent, therefore Ryuen could also eliminate this criteria.

Academics, social status and physical abilities are three of the most important parts when determining the excellence of a student,

Ryuen came to the probable conclusion that the group members were not picked by any set criteria, and that he won't get any clues if he goes further on this thought process.

Ryuen thought about the Zodiac animals that each group were named after, so the thought that there must be a reason as to why

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(Y1V4) - Following the explanations of the Zodiac exam's unique set of rules, Ryuen was able to recognize its distinctive nature as a test where inter-class deception was not only permitted but encouraged. Coupled with compulsory separation of students into different groups spanning all classes, Ryuen foresaw the inevitability of key figures from each class intentionally bumping into one another and predicted some strategic discussions to take place as an attempt to get a read on each other.

Ryuen made a calculated choice to arrive at the gathering fashionably late, accompanied by three classmates who had been present during the explanation. But why would Ryuen deliberately delay his entrance? Given his notorious reputation among the first years, his early arrival would likely trigger caution or even avoidance from his peers. By biding his time before making his grand entrance, Ryuen aimed to maximize his observational advantage. Waiting allowed him to discreetly survey the dynamics of the gathering, keenly observing the interactions and gauging the attitudes of others before making his presence known.

(Inductive reasoning, Tactics, Decision making)

(Y1V4) - Following his entrance, Ryuen further delves into profiling Katsuragi by employing a series of bluffs to gauge his reactions. When Katsuragi expresses surprise at finding Ryuen grouped with individuals of great academic abilities like Kanzaki and Suzune, Ryuen counters by dismissing the importance of academic abilities. This deliberate provocation aims to elicit a response from Katsuragi, prompting him to defend the integrity of academic success with a compelling argument. Through this exchange, Ryuen successfully probed Katsuragi's beliefs and values, allowing an opportunity to unravel deeper insights into his psyche.

Ryuen notices that, despite being constantly provoked, Katsuragi still kept a level-headed demeanor during the whole interaction, which was consistent with all of his previous interactions thus far. Ryuen also took note of how Katsuragi tried to strike back at him with a logical and sound argument. Katsuragi always stays calm and looks forward to the most sound conclusion he can come up with to combat any situation, whether the problem facing him is also something logical or an irrational argument that Ryuen came up with. With all of this in mind, Ryuen was

able to look more into Katsuragi's thought process and took greater notes of the contrast between Katsuragi and himself, contributing to his long term scheme.

(Tactics, Inductive reasoning, Emotional perception)

(Y1V4) - With the opportunity to confront Suzune directly, Ryuen used bluffs on her to gather as much information as possible. From what Ryuen was able to observe on the island exam, Suzune, though cautious around him, still ultimately fell for his deception and allowed Ibuki to infiltrate her class. A serious minded person like Suzune would have tried to counter Ryuen's strategy of planting a spy beforehand if they were to see through it instead of letting it all fall in motion and counter it at the last moment, Ryuuen revealed that he knew the mastermind behind wasn't Suzune, and had to be someone else besides her

Ryuuen's inference came from Y1V3, at least the majority of it

In the last roll call, as it was revealed that Class C scored 0 points, now this raised many questions for Ryuuen, as this would mean that he likely guessed incorrectly, or someone guessed he was the leader, the first step of realizing where he made his mistake was to know which of these happened if not both.

So Ibuki was tasked by Ryuen to retrieve the leader's card, which turns out to be Suzune. But it was never mentioned that Ibuki told Ryuen anything besides giving him the card, so Ryuuen was able to finish his part of the deal with Katsuragi, and proved to him that Suzune was indeed the leader for Class D **at the time**.

(Year 1, Volume 3, chapter 6.9)

But on the last day, there was a roll call, Hirata told Ryuuen that Suzune retired, and Ryuuen doubted that, saying that it doesn't seem like something she'd do, and knowing that Suzune likely should have noticed her card go missing, as Ibuki didn't mention how she obtained it, Ryuuen thought that Suzune wouldn't want to lose 30 points and would instead opt for deceptive strategy to make it seem like she retired so that Ibuki (the students at the time didn't know Ryuuen was still on the island) would refrain from voting on her as the leader.

Ryuuen's inference makes sense from his perspective, as even someone like Ibuki knew that Horikita didn't trust anyone but herself.

The points were announced as follows:
4. Class C: 0 points
3. Class A: 120 points
2. Class B: 140 points
1. Class D: 225 points

Ryuuen, from his own perspective, can't think of any possible way anyone should have been able to vote on him being the leader, unless Katsuragi backstabbed him, which is very unlikely due to Class A's low score, which indicates that he also guessed incorrectly.

Ryuuen would infer from this that his previous assessment was wrong, and that Suzune did indeed retire.

So stepping back, what happened that caused this score?
Class A would have 300, losing 30 due to Arisu's absence, that's 270, getting their leader guessed by Ryuuen, that's 220, guessing Suzune to be leader when she wasn't, that's 170, yet their total is 120, something happened, is it possible

Someone voted on the leader of Class A correctly (Hypothesis)

For Class B, Ryuuen voted on them, so their points become 250, obviously any other bonus points are negated, and since he had Kaneda as a spy to fill him in on Class B's progression, and the fact that Ryuuen didn't give Class B's leader to Katsuragi, Ryuuen can easily infer that no one besides him voted on Class B, meaning that their extra 110 points they lost were basic spendings.

For Class D, Something that would interest Ryuuen is, why did Suzune drop out? As he said himself, she isn't that type of person, this is where a certain line from Hirata comes into play.

Hirata here gave off the impression that he understood the situation, this was quick adaptability on Hirata's part, but what Ryuuen inferred, was that Suzune's retirement wasn't out of her own will, how did Ryuuen get that?

First off, Hirata was hesitant in replying to Ryuuen's statement about Suzune's retirement being odd, but now he's going ahead to explain what happened to his class; Hirata's actions were contradictory here. The more likely explanation was that Hirata was simply controlling his class and keeping them at bay, which would mean he himself doesn't know how these results came to be, but with Ryuuen now more confident in Suzune's retirement not being something she herself desired, he can make the inference that someone within Class D is actually doing most of the workload and planning, someone who's actually capable but decides to stay hidden, and that person is most likely to be the second appointed leader.

(OTL, Year 1, Volume 4, Chapter 3)

Through this series of abductions and direct confrontation, Ryuuen was able to successfully deduce the following:

- Suzune wasn't the one who led Class D to victory on the island.
- There existed a mastermind in Class D who helped them succeed on the island.
- That mastermind is the second appointed Leader after Suzune's retirement.

Ryuuen's process:

1- Suzune is absent, even though that's unnatural for her in this situation.
2- Class C got 0 points.
3- Hirata, despite being surprised, claims he can explain the outcome to his class.
->
A- Hirata is lying and he doesn't know how this outcome came to be.
B- Ryuuen's vote on Suzune was wrong, but if that was all, he'd still have 126 points.
C- Class A lost an additional 100 points over the initial prediction, 50 of those should've stemmed from guessing Suzune.
D- Since it isn't natural for Suzune to retire in such a scenario, someone from Class D made her retire. Calling him X.
->
1- Ryuuen lost all of his points from guessing the other leaders correctly and from managing 2 spots.
2- Class A mysteriously lost 50 points.
3- Someone guessed both Yahiko and Ryuuen correctly, it must be X.
->
1. X made Suzune retire somehow.
2. No matter what, losing 30 points by making Suzune retire is a bad move.

->
A. X somehow deduced Ryuuen's strategy and countered by making Suzune retire, saving his class from losing 100 points and instead lowered it to 30.
B. X also deduced Yahiko's position as well.
C. X left Class B alone, as evident by them not losing more than 110 points outside of Ryuuen's vote which made them lose 50. 110 points were reasonable for basic expenses.
->
1. Since retirement is a good enough argument for changing the leader of the exam, X making Suzune retire means he was the replacement leader.
2. X is a hidden mastermind for Class D.

(Observation, Deductive reasoning)

X, a person who was able to see through Ryuen's plans and formulated a scheme behind the curtain to completely counter it while remaining undetected. Ryuen recognized that such a mastermind if left unexposed will be detrimental to him and his class along with having the potential to dominate any other competition within the year. And that marks the beginning of Ryuen's cat and mouse chase against X.

(Decision making, planning)

(Y1V4) - Ryuen declared to Ibuki that Ichinose was not going to be a substantial threat to himself or his class, this of course stemmed from his observation and profiling of the class B representative.

During the island exam, Ryuen was scheming to use Kaneda as a spy with the end goal of retrieving information within class B during the whole exam. Ryuen was planning to go to the same extent as he did against class D in order to misdirect class B from Kaneda's true nature as a spy. But as it turns out, Ichinose took in an injured and outcast-looking Kaneda before Ryuen could pull anything off directly. She did this in order to keep up her image as a good natured person who will help out anyone in need regardless of who they are.

And during the trial which class C held against Sudo. That incident was of course fabricated by Ryuen to not only retrieve info about the functionality of the school

system but it has a second benefit of helping Ryuen get a read on other classes based on how they act in response to the trial, since he got this incident to be announced to the entire 1st year. From Ryuen's perspective, the incompetent class D was scrambling to get anything done before class B, specifically Ichinose decided to reach out on her own to help them with the fake camera trick. She of course did not need to do such a thing to help another class like this, especially to the point of coming up with such a tactic. But how did Ryuen know that Ichinose was the one reaching out to class D ? This inference was made after the events of the island exam, when Ichinose let Kaneda in her camp without hesitation. And just like that incident, Ichinose helping class D was to keep up her good image.

So by observing these 2 events, Ryuen was able to profile Ichinose as a good natured person who's biggest strength was her ability to get along with anyone thanks to her good acts, but at the same time, that would also be her biggest weakness. She has to keep up this act no matter what, and that of course leaves room for Ryuen to strike and counter her with his more unorthodox methods. And that's why Ryuen declared Ichinose to not be a threat.

(Y1V4) - Ibuki followed with another question regarding his evaluation of Sakayanagi, to which Ryuen replied will

"I will save her for later, it's too much of a waste to eat her now"

This subtle gesture hinted at Ryuen's acknowledgment of Sakayanagi as a potential threat compared to other class representatives. As a prominent figure within Class A, she commanded a position on par with Katsuragi, indicating a level of competence and influence worthy of attention. However, Ryuen couldn't help but notice a fundamental difference in their approaches.

Whereas Katsuragi actively pursued influence through an attempt to get into the student council, Sakayanagi deliberately refrained from participating, despite potentially possessing exceptional abilities. This of course got the attention of Ryuen, leading him to speculate about the underlying motives behind Sakayanagi's decision.

Ryuen revealed his knowledge of Katsuragi's rejection from the student council during the Island exam.

Ryuen entertained the idea that Sakayanagi's opt-out from student council activities might not merely be a matter of disinterest but rather a strategic maneuver. This thought hinted to Ryuen that Sakayanagi might have predicted Katsuragi's eventual rejection from the council and the subsequent impact on his status within Class A. Ryuen perceived her as a potential threat, underscoring his tone regarding Sakayanagi within his answer given to Ibuki.

(Observation, Inductive reasoning, Emotional understanding)

The Zodiac exam strategy:

(Y1V4) - With influence over his classmates, Ryuen now only has 3 the identity of 3 VIPs. Ryuen could have tried to figure out the pattern this way, but he wanted absolute certainty. He wanted to maximize the point gains in this exam since he decided that it was necessary to sacrifice the next couple of exams for the sake of hunting down X, and so he sees the Zodiac exam as a chance to offset the class points he may lose later.

Ryuen's other goal in this strategy was to target class A specifically. Katsuragi is currently the one leading his class in this exam. So if Ryuen figures out the Zodiac pattern and targets only the VIPs of class A, that will result in a big loss and by extension, damage Katsuragi's image, further separating him from class A which contributes to Ryuen's long term plan of transferring him.

Ryuen got a message from Kushida on his phone saying "Sorry last night". The previous night was the same instance when Kushida suddenly hugged Ayanokoji on the ship in order to redirect his attention away from a certain someone. That was because Kushida secretly initiated a deal with Ryuen. Kushida wanted to trigger Outcome #1, which is when the VIP's identity was successfully kept a secret, giving her 1 million private points, while everyone else gets 500 thousand. She gave Ryuen her identity as the VIP, In return, he promised to keep her identity a secret to make sure the outcome happens.

A deal that Ryuen did initiate was with class B's co-leader, Kanzaki. A VIP from class B was guessed correctly by Koenji on the first day, making them lose 50 class points. Ryuen saw this as an opportunity to persuade Kanzaki into making a secret deal. Ryuen's end of the bargain was to tell one of his classmates in a group that houses a VIP from class B to guess incorrectly, resulting in class B getting back the 50 points they lost to Koenji. In return, Kanzaki gives Ryuen the identity of 1 VIP besides the Monkey group, which Koenji ended. But the catch is that Ryuen has to promise not to vote on any of the class B's VIPs, so their identity is only for the sake of solving the pattern. The group Ryuen decided to vote incorrectly on in order to give class B points was the Cow group, which includes Tokito from class C, the one who will rebel against in year 2.

At this point, all classes from B to D are aware of Katsuragi's closed fortress strategy for class A, which is to play fully defensive, aiming to engage with other students as little as possible

Ryuen afterwards asked Suzune and Ichinose for cooperation in this exam to target class A, but they denied. Suzune does not want to have anything to do with Ryuen after the constant torment and deception he has pulled off on her and Ichinose did not want to negotiate with Ryuen because she stated that Ryuen had hurt her friends in the past. Ryuen already knew these two would deny him, that is because he had already planned to negotiate with Kanzaki beforehand, and by approaching Suzune and Ichinose, it would enforce the idea that Ryuen failed to negotiate with class B and D, when in reality, Ryuen's intention was to make them think that's the case, so he can negotiate with Kanzaki and Kushida behind their backs without suspicions .

Ryuen was able to gather a total of 6 VIP names, 3 from his class, 1 from class B which Kanzaki gave him, another one from class B in the Monkey group which Koenji ended and one from class D, which is Kushida. With this, he was able to solve the Zodiac exam pattern with absolute certainty, resulting in a huge victory for class C and receiving a large amount of class points and private points which for one gives him more leniency in hunting down X. And by targeting class A through guessing all of the VIPs in their class, he was able to further separate Katsuragi from his class, contributing to his grand plan of transferring him. Within a day, Ryuen was able to adapt and completely understood the underlining of the Zodiac exam.

All while in that short period of time, he was able to come up with a solid strategy that maximized its efficiency and success rate, hugely benefiting his goals in every which way.

(Adaptability, Overall strategy, Overall planning, Decision making, Risk calculation, Negotiation, Direct manipulation, Logical manipulation)

About Ryuen's process of deducing the pattern, there were 159 students on the ship since Sakayanagi was absent, and they were split into 12 groups, each akin to a name of an animal in the Chinese zodiac. So there were 14 students in each group, except one, and each group had one VIP. Ryuen then proceeded to align all 84 names from the collect 6 groups (6 VIPs, and each group can only have one VIP, and all the groups he took VIPs from had 14 students). And by lining up the surnames in the Japanese alphabetical order, he found out that each VIP is ranked alphabetically the same rank of his/her group.

X ARC

(Y1V5) - Ryuen is now focusing his efforts on unmasking X, whom he believes to be the mastermind orchestrating events within Class D. X possesses the ability to effectively deduce and foresee Ryuen's schemes before crafting counter-strategies from the shadows, all while evading detection altogether. Ryuen acknowledges that allowing such a mastermind to operate unchecked could spell disaster for both him and his class, potentially granting X unrivaled dominance over any future competitions. Thus, Ryuen initiates a high-stakes game of cat and mouse as he looks forward to outmaneuvering and exposing X's facade. Following his recent victory in the Zodiac exam, Ryuen is willing to divert his attention from subsequent special exams if it means uncovering X's identity.

For the upcoming sports festival, Ryuen has devised a comprehensive strategy: crafting an effective plan that would lead everyone to believe that Ryuen's goal was securing a victory for the sports festival while deliberately leaving clues for X to decipher and potentially counteract. By doing so, Ryuen aims to gain deeper insights into X's methods and pattern of operation.

(Y1V5) - During the second homeroom period, it has been decided that students across all school years would be having a meeting. Over 400 people, including instructors and students, gathered in the gymnasium. The entire student body from the 1st years up to the 3rd years divided up between the Red Team and the White Team, with the former consisting of every student within class A and D against the latter which houses all students of class B and C.

The purpose of this meeting was to give the classes a chance to plan and negotiate on cooperating with each other, but Ryuen has utilized this occasion to perform the complete opposite of its intention. Ryuen turned down Ichinose and declared that he will not be cooperating with class B for this sport festival. After doing so, Ryuen, with his hands in his pockets, commanded the entirety of class C to leave the gymnasium, catching the attention of everyone else that was there. Before leaving, Ryuen noted to Ichinose, saying they were leaving early out of goodwill to save time, since class B students will be very distrusting of him anyways. Ryuen

ended the conversation with a suggestive message, saying that he might have a plan for this sport festival.

Scans

This declaration helps Ryuen achieve two different goals. First and foremost, by commanding his entire class to leave, Ryuen was able to catch the attention of everyone in the gymnasium, including X. Coupled with his cryptic parting words, Ryuen subtly conveyed to X the existence of a potential scheme for the sports festival. Secondly, Ryuen strategically positioned himself by acknowledging class B's inherent distrust and refusing cooperation. This maneuver would completely conceal his previous negotiations with Kanzaki during the Zodiac exam, eliminating any lingering suspicion of their partnership and safeguarding their potential corporations in the future.

In short, by turning down class B's cooperation, Ryuen was able to:

1: Alert X
- Grabbing his attention.
- Leaving a suggestive statement.

2: Completely conceal his partnership with Kanzaki
- Refusal to cooperate.
- Stating class B's distrust.

His tactic ended up being effective, as Ayanokoji has picked up what Ryuen left and deduced that Ryuen had devised multiple "winning strategies" for the sport festival even though they have just heard about the rules. As per usual, Ryuen showed his ability to quickly adapt to any exams or events in front of him, being able to swiftly make decisions and come up with comprehensive strategies to effectively reach his goals.

Scans

While everyone was practicing for the sports festival, class D noticed that class A and B were eyeing them. Curiously, no students from Class C were sighted to do

the same. That is because Ryuen orchestrated this illusion deliberately, suggesting he had an alternative strategy for gathering information. His aim was to assess whether X could deduce the presence of a spy within their class.

Scans

During the Zodiac exam, the deal between Ryuen and Kushida involves Ryuen keeping Kushida's status as the VIP hidden, so she can get 1 million private points when the exam ends. This negotiation now benefits Ryuen by letting him secretly be on good terms with Kushida, who agreed to act as a spy for Ryuen, gathering valuable intel on Class D. This explains Kushida's reserved demeanor during the discussion where Kei opposed Suzune, only interjecting when prompted by Kei.

This plan of action will also help Ryuen narrow down X's identity. Having been aware of the suspicious hug between Kushida and Ayanokoji, Ryuen anticipates that if X were to retaliate against Kushida, it would indicate a connection between X and Ayanokoji. And at most, X could even be Ayanokoji himself. Ayanokoji was known to usually be around Suzune, who Ryuen knows played a valuable part in class D's victory during the Deserted island exam. And that's also why Kushida was purposefully tasked by Ryuen to keep a low profile during the discussion to help X connect the dots which in turns, helps Ryuen's information gathering strategy.

This is further evidenced by the fact that Ryuen ONLY planted a spy in class D and not any other classes. If Ryuen's primary goal were to secure victory in the sports festival, he could have opted to plant another spy in Class A, mirroring his strategy of deploying spies in both Class B and Class D during the Deserted island exam.

What Ryuen is about to do is to perform various tactics in each individual event of the sports festival, each more refined than the last, akin to constructing an intricately layered trap designed to lure X into action. These tactics, carefully prepared by Ryuen, include a wide range of underhanded tactics that may appear transparent to their targets but would be carefully obscured to evade detection by spectators.

Within this strategy, Ryuen has also crafted an incredibly complex trap, with Suzune Horikita as his target. But why her? At this point, Ryuen lacks concrete

evidence regarding the true identity of X. The only refined clues suggest that X operates from the shadows and shares a connection with Suzune, as evidenced by X's manipulation of her during the island exam, coupled with Suzune's persistent denial of X's existence. By targeting Suzune and observing X's response, Ryuen hopes to uncover more insights. Is X using Suzune as a facade? Will X intervene on her behalf? Does X genuinely care about Suzune? If the answers to these questions are negative, Ryuen can deduce that Suzune Horikita is not X's primary pawn. Thus, Ryuen will persist in his pursuit of X's key player, strategizing to draw X out into the open.

Ryuen utilized all of the sport events to his advantage, from coating his headband in hair gel to make it slippery during the cavalry event, to relentlessly tormenting Sudo and provoking his anger. Additionally, with Kushida leaking Class D's timetable, Ryuen strategically pitted his weakest players against stronger opponents like Sudo and Hirata, reserving his top players and openly taunting his adversaries. These tactics were not devised to secure victory in the sports festival, but rather to toy with his opponents, almost as if daring X to intervene. Ayanokoji ended up seeing through all of Ryuen's tactics, discerning the true intentions behind each move.

Scans

However, one tactic that was quite complex was the trap used against Suzune during the obstacle race. Utilizing Kinoshita as a pawn, Ryuen devised a scheme to frame Suzune of foul play. As the race neared its climax, Kinoshita called out Suzune's name in a volume that is loud enough to Suzune but is obscured to spectators, prompting Suzune to repeatedly glance back. This created the illusion that Suzune was plotting against Kinoshita mid-race. Subsequently, Kinoshita intentionally tangled her leg with Suzune's, resulting in a tumble that injured Kinoshita, preventing her from continuing the race.

Later on in the story, Ryuen planned for Kushida to be sent to call Suzune to the infirmary where she was accused of purposefully injuring Kinoshita. Kinoshita lying in pain on the bed in the infirmary testified that Suzune forcefully kicked her in the shin, ultimately making Kinoshita fall and leaving her with a severe injury. Thanks to Ryuen keeping her absent from all subsequent events, the incident was

able to more easily reach the teachers' ears. And if Suzune let this incident drag out for long, it could potentially escalate to the point of having to hold a trial in the student council.

Scans

With the situation Ryuen has laid out, it would be more probable to consider it intentional rather than a coincidence. Due to her injury, Kinoshita has no choice but to be absent from all subsequent contests, this could be seen as a detriment to class C and the White team as a whole as they have lost a stellar athlete on their team and handing Red team an undeniably unfair advantage in the coming events of this sport festival. To add to the likelihood of this accusation being more believable, Ryuen waited for Suzune to participate in multiple events following the obstacle race before commanding Kinoshita to submit her accusations in order to make Suzune look extra guilty in this case, ultimately framing her of intentionally preventing an athlete who was superior to her from competing in multiple recommended events with the intention of hoarding points by herself.

As Suzune was trying to have a talk with Kinoshita about the incident, Ryuen entered the scene all while feigning ignorance towards the entire situation. After acting like he was looking for Kinoshita, Ryuen opened the curtains to reveal her lying on the infirmary bed. Ryuen continued his act by asking about Kinoshita's wellbeing and commenting on how the injury, prompting Kinoshita to stutter her apology to him for not being able to compete in the subsequent contest, to which he replied in forgiveness while revealing that he had already knew she tried her best to participate but couldn't. Ryuen afterwards stood his ground on the incident by accusing Suzune of deliberately injuring Kinoshita whilst reciting the point on Suzune's motive of purposefully making someone more athletic than her withdraw, preventing Kinoshita from participating in all of the following recommended events. Thanks to the actions Ryuen planned for Kinoshita during the obstacle race, he has successfully created an illusion of Suzune glancing back at Kinoshita during the race. Suzune testified by saying it was only because someone was repeatedly calling her name, to which Kinoshita denied by saying she never did.

Ryuen also planned for Kushida, who at this point has not revealed her true nature to anyone besides Ayanokoji and Ryuen, to aid his act by pretending to side with

Suzune, saying she wasn't the type of person to do this. After Ryuen and Kinoshita insisted on not letting Suzune off the hook, Kushida continued to beg Ryuen for forgiveness towards her classmate. Ryuen then acted like he was in deep in thoughts for a moment before striking a deal, proposing Suzune to shoulder losses incurred by Kinoshita and Class C by paying 1 million private points all while adding another layer to demoralize Suzune by threatening to take this case to the student council, where Ryuen knows Suzune will have trouble facing her older brother due to the inferiority complex she possesses towards him. What makes this situation even more unbearable to Suzune would be the results that would come from the trial, if rumors were to spread about the sister of the student council president committing disruptive acts and deliberately causing injuries, the damage Manabu receives would be immeasurable, ultimately giving Ryuen complete control over the entire situation, leaving no room for Suzune to escape.

Suzune had no choice but to accept the offer, even though she insisted on not being in the wrong in front of Ryuen. He responded by adding yet another layer of demoralization in the form of an extra condition, Suzune will now not only have to pay 1 million private points, but she also has to kneel. Ryuen stated that Suzune has until the end of the sport festival to comply and asked Kushida to bring Suzune to him at the end of the sport festival before letting Suzune leave the scene.

Scans

Ryuen's strategy here is eerily similar to Sudo's trial, he took notes of the events back in the Sudo trial and planted just enough evidence to make his case seem compelling, he also went as far as having Kinoshita practice running into people and injuring them deliberately. And Kinoshita's injury wasn't her falling during the race, Ryuen paid Kinoshita private points in exchange for injuring her himself. But while in Sudo's case, Ryuen orchestrated the scene to make the class C boys be victims based on the premise that nobody would be watching. But this is different, he made the entire student body into witnesses and played the victim. Furthermore, there is the video footage of Suzune conspicuously turning and Kinoshita's sustained injuries being severe enough to prevent her from continuing. Combine that with the fact that Kinoshita is a student who is as athletic as Suzune, if not more so had been planning on participating in all the Recommended Only

Participation events. There is no way for anyone, including X to counter. And best of all, is the timing with which Ryuen sprung the trap.

These accusations took place during the point when Ryuen had completely demoralized Sudo through a series of underhanded tactics causing the supposed anchor of class D to lash out on his own class before leaving and refusing to cooperate in the following events of the sport festival. What Ryuen was able to accomplish in his demoralizing scheme caused class D and specifically Suzune to end up in a desperate situation. Knowing Suzune's willingness to achieve victory, Ryuen forced her into a desperate situation, having to face these accusations in the middle of class D falling apart will not only back her up into a corner but also psychologically shake her.

Regardless of X's subsequent response, victory remains assured for Ryuen. Firstly, Ryuen's trap is impossible to interfere with, its coverups were constructed to ensure that he can get complete control over the situation. Only the small possibility of X possessing knowledge of it beforehand, possibly acquired through a spy hidden within Class C during Ryuen's preparations, could counter the trap. And if that were the case, it will not only expose X's network but also affords Ryuen an advantage, enabling him to track down any spies operating within his class and thus fortify his position of dominance over class C.

Secondly, Ryuen made sure the trap was able to completely conceal its own inner workings upon activation, leaving no room for accusations of foul play to take place. Ryuen planted just enough evidence to lend credibility to his case, preemptively neutralizing any potential rebuttal. By carefully manipulating logic to his favor, Ryuen's case remained secure, his accusations became irrefutable even under careful observations.

With this, Ryuen's trap ended up being a great example of his ability to strategize and how creatively he uses everything around him to formulate an incredibly effective scheme. With each move calculated carefully and every situation prepared for, his plan resulted in him being victorious regardless of X's reaction. And the most impressive part of this is how quickly Ryuen formulated his strategy. As stated by Ayanokoji and by looking back at how Ryuen instantly made moves right after hearing the rules in the previous exams, it's safe to say Ryuen had also

formulated this strategy within an incredibly short amount of time after being introduced to the Sports Festival.

Now that everything has unfolded, all Ryuen has to do is to see how X reacts to this. By setting up a meeting with Suzune and Kushida, Ryuen will be able to finish his strategy by compiling all of the events during the sport festival and acquire every possible information about X.

(Adaptability, Overall strategy, Overall planning, Decision making, Fabrication, Information control, Overall manipulation, Overall EQ)

(Y1V5) - Near the end of the volume, Ryuen disclosed his plan to injure Kinoshita to Suzune, fully aware of the possibility that she might record the conversation. Therefore, Ryuen framed his explanation as mere speculation. Suzune contemplated editing out the portion where Ryuen said the plan was just a speculation as an attempt to frame Ryuen, not knowing he outmaneuvered her by recording the entire exchange.

Scans

(Trap evasion)

(Y1V5) When Horikita was about to bow, Ryuen received a message on his phone, it was video proof of Ryuen scheming with his class to target Horikita, Ryuen instantly knew that this was X.

Ryuen deduced that X was the one behind the video, as this person anticipated Kushida's leak of Class D's timetable and accurately predicted Horikita's defeat. While Ryuen plans to uncover more about Horikita's connection to X in volume 6, he currently observes that X was already aware of Horikita's impending fall into Ryuen's trap, as evidenced by the content of the video.

But how did he deduce that X anticipated Kushida's betrayal of Class D? The scene depicted in the video clip revealed that Ryuen possessed knowledge of which Class D member would participate in the race and at what time. This suggests that X could have deduced Ryuen's awareness of their timetable, implying that someone

within Class D leaked the information. Given Ryuen's knowledge of Kushida's involvement, he could connect the dots. Furthermore, Ryuen was aware of Kushida's suspicious behavior during the first night of the Zodiac exam, particularly her hug on the balcony as an attempt to divert Ayanokoji's attention, who was linked to Horikita and therefore X. Thus, X must have deduced Kushida's traitorous behavior through these interconnected clues.

Kushida spoke up about her speculation of Ayanokoji being the one who was behind all of this, but Ryuen was still hesitant about it. That is because all of the evidence Ryuen has gathered up till now points to someone else being a more likely candidate. Right after Kushida mentioned Ayanokoji, Ryuen instantaneously recalled past events and combining them with the current situation into a thought process as follows:

Ryuuen identifies a series of "unnatural goings" within the school, such as the test on the uninhabited island and the sports festival, and suspects that these events are connected in some way. Someone is working behind the scenes and that person has not only won the island exam for Class D, but also saved Horikita from blackmail. In both times, that person saw through Ryuuen’s plan and was able to counter it.
That means that there is a mastermind behind Class D, which Ryuuen refers to as X.

Ryuuen inferred from the actions on the island exam and sports festival that the mastermind has the ability to navigate complex situations, outmaneuver his opponents, exert control over their classmates to achieve his goals, exploits others vulnerabilities and is also incomprehensible.

These are all attributes that also apply to Ryuuen, which led him to the speculation that the mastermind thinks like him.

With regard to Ayanokouji, he had felt something fishy from the beginning, primarily because of Ayanokouji’s connection to Horikita. However, if Ayanokouji were the mastermind, and had been close to Horikita from the beginning, he would never have let her be hurt.

However, when the results of the island exam were revealed, Ike questioned Hirata about the results of the exam. In response, Hirata told Ike that he would tell him how they won, but only when they got back to the ship. To Ryuuen, who was watching this, Hirata's statement was suggestive.

But according to Ryuen, this is still not concrete evidence for Hirata being X, there's still a chance it might be someone else different. Though outplayed by X in the last moment, Ryuen was still satisfied with the information he gathered through his strategy for the Sport Festival.

Scans

(Deductive Reasoning, Observation, CPI)

(Y1V6) - In the sports festival when Ryuuen tried to blackmail Horikita, someone negated that by blackmailing Ryuuen in return by sending a recording of Class C's plan to crush Horikita.

Since Ryuuen has been keeping information in his class without sharing information to their partner class in that exam, he knows that someone in his class betrayed him. A spy that leaks information for whatever reason. However, the recording used against Ryuuen didn't go into detail about crushing Horikita.

It could be anyone in class who betrayed him, however, Ryuuen has a solution to that. Ryuuen announces his intention to conduct a thorough investigation to identify the traitor within thirty minutes, framing it as a "silly, childish little game." Ryuuen collects everyone's phones. After that he tells them that he would check thoroughly everywhere for hints about X.

However, this is only a deception. He is aware that if someone is trying to hide their identity they would not make an incriminating call. Even looking into email histories or texts would be useless, as X wouldn't give himself so easily away and risk the possibility of being found out. He is too smart to fail like that and should be aware that the recording he sent to Ryuuen made Ryuuen aware of the existence of a traitor. The traitor may have used an alias and cleared any evidence.

Students like Nishino, who don't want to hand their phone over because of their desire to not want him to see their personal information outweighs the risk of being a suspect. They are innocent in Ryuuen's eyes.

Ryuuen had gone through all of his classmates' phones on the cruise ship. However, as Nishino had said, he didn't go through any private information; he only confirmed the correspondence they had received from the school. This situation seemed similar, but it wasn't. If someone were to go through and read through their entire phones, word of people's crushes or who disliked who would spread like wildfire. This kind of private information had to be kept under wraps. Furthermore, Ryuuen exploits their vulnerability by suggesting that their reluctance makes them a prime suspect. While this tactic forces students like Nishino to comply with the investigation out of fear of being singled out as the traitor, the fact that they resist draws attention to them and would typically cause a tyrant like Ryuuen to

investigate them more thoroughly. Despite their fear and uncertainty, they are compelled to obey his commands and submit to his authority, therefore it would be of no use to resist when he has already collected their phones.

Basically, Ryuuen was telling them to choose between becoming a suspect or keeping their privacy. Faced with those two options, four girls and two boys raised their hands, despite their fear. Ryuuen checked the rest of everyone's phones himself, which took him about twenty minutes, no more than one minute per phone. He couldn't have checked all of them thoroughly. Even though the students had their doubts, no one could say anything.

(Tactics, Emotional manipulation, Deception, Direct manipulation, Emotional understanding)

(Y1V6) - Ryuuen shows the recording X sent to him to Ibuki, which makes her point out the possibility that X might have anticipated everything, even the time Ryuuen and Horikita were going to meet. However, Ryuuen sees it as a mere coincidence. A mere matter of probability. The best time for X to strike was immediately after the festival ended. Moreover, Ryuuen asked Horikita to later on to meet him after the festival and X wasn't interested in saving Horikita.

X clearly understood the details of the strategy Ryuuen came up with. If he knew all his plans, including leaking the participation table, he could have foiled his attacks on Horikita at the sports festival. He could have prevented Horikita from being crushed and having to beg for forgiveness. But he didn't. Even though X knew about Ryuuen's strategy, he allowed him to go about his business and let Horikita suffer. She was injured, unable to keep competing, and she had to suffer the guilt of injuring someone else as well. By letting Ryuuen go so far, X made incriminating material out of the audio file. If Ryuuen's plans came to a dead end, the audio file wouldn't have been credible evidence.
X is a cruel person. X wasn't bothered by Ryuuen having Suzune kneel. That's why there wasn't any text in his message. He couldn't have cared less whether Suzune's pride was hurt or not. X had several options available, including altering Class D's participation table to prepare for Class C's strategy, or sending the audio file to Ryuuen in advance to stop him. If X had done that, then Horikita wouldn't have been hurt. If you knew the details of the enemy's plans beforehand, then normally you

would consider using the information to save your classmates. If X had given the audio file to the school after Class C carried out their plans, it would've hurt Class C badly. With October already half over, however, that possibility had practically vanished. Even if someone dug up the old news, the investigation would be time-consuming, allowing the Class C students to start destroying evidence and planning their escape. X deliberately chose not to threaten them.

It would be easy to perceive him as naive or someone that doesn't take full advantage of his assets, as someone like Kaneda thinks that if Horikita had finished transferring private points over to Ryuuen, then X would've been defeated. Even if Horikita had given up her private points, X probably could've recovered them by presenting the audio. He could have threatened Ryuuen with exposure, and that would've been it. X remains incomprehensible. X allowed Ryuuen to make Horikita kneel. That's different from winning or losing points. It's not something a person can undo. Therefore, X is letting him torment Horikita. In other words, that was what X was aiming for. He had used precious information he received from a spy for that purpose alone.

(Emotional Perception, Emotional understanding, Deductive reasoning, Observation)

(Y1V6) - Ryuuen knows that if he kept digging for the audio file's source, he'd eventually force X to reveal himself. He could even contact the school and request that they provide him with email and call records. After thorough investigation, he'd probably arrive at X's identity. In addition, Ryuuen didn't get the feeling that X was fixated on moving up to Class A at all. Gaining assets didn't matter to X and he didn't take full advantage into the direction of bringing Class D to Class A.

Even if Ryuuen discovers the spy X would still remain hidden. Ryuuen leads his class similar to a dictator, who uses fear and violence to keep them all at his mercy. No one would risk any consequences of being seen as a traitor, even if they don't like Ryuuen. Ryuuen sees it as fit to exploit vulnerabilities to be able to get his hands on the audio file. If the spy knew X's identity, it'd be game over for X the moment Ryuuen found them out. Therefore, Ryuuen is certain that X used email or similar tactics to remain anonymous.

Ryuuen, however, didn't look at anyone's phone carefully, and only used that as a show. As a spy no one would intentionally leave suspicious email on your phone. It was obvious how investigating everyone's phones would turn out. It wouldn't have been odd for someone to destroy evidence. Even if he supposes that the spy didn't think to do that, X would have instructed them to do so. The spy is someone who thought that they could look innocent just by giving Ryuuen their phone. Therefore, those who didn't show him their phones are innocent, whereas the spy wouldn't have taken that chance. That was precisely why Nishino and the others who had refused to show Ryuuen their phones were inevitably freed from suspicion. If they weren't spies, it didn't matter even if they were suspected. It had all been a stunt made possible by the ones who would protest. Ryuuen could've gone ahead and checked their phones anyway, but that would've antagonized the rest of his class. He had only briefly glanced through each phone, and he had basically told his classmates that he wasn't snooping in their private lives. In other words, Ryuuen hadn't actually been looking for an incriminating message on Class C's phones. He was evaluating how much the class feared him, and how much influence X had over the spy.

Ryuuen looked at each individual in the class, studying their body language.By observing who willingly surrenders their phones and who refuses, he assesses the extent of X's influence over the spy and the class's perception of him as a figure of authority. After revealing his deception Ryuuen offers the spy once again to reveal themselves, which finds no answer. This means that the spy fears X, possibly more than they do Ryuuen.

Ryuuen exploits others' fear and vulnerability, but so would also X, and it seems to a higher degree. Moreover, the spy would think that Ryuuen would yield to authority and not risk anything to get expelled.

Ryuuen used intimidation tactics to assert his authority and began a plan to smoke out the traitor. His leadership style instills fear and compliance among his classmates. His tactics involve psychological manipulation to gauge each of his classmates' reactions and level of fear.

Ryuen put on this entire act while paying attention and carefully observing the eyes and movement of every individual within the room. By staring into their eyes one by

one and constantly perceiving everyone's emotions, he noticed Manabe's bad complexion and instantly knew that she was the spy.

Despite her denial, Ryuuen remains insistent in his accusation, showing both dominance and a hint of forgiveness. He employs a mix of intimidation and manipulation to extract information, demonstrating his determination to uncover the truth and maintain control over his classmates. Ryuuen confronts Manabe directly, displaying confidence in his accusation despite her denial. He uses his authority and intimidation tactics to assert control over the situation His unwavering demeanor and insistence on guilt tripping demonstrate his conviction based on behavioral observations and psychological manipulation.

When interrogating Manabe and her friends, they confirmed that they don't know X and have been blackmailed. Ryuuen learns what happened on the cruise ship, what they'd done to Karuizawa and what X asked them to do.
Karuizawa has also been bullied in the past, which leaves room for blackmailing. At that time only Yukimura and Ayanokoji saw them. Right now, the facts state that only Yukimura or Ayanokouji could have taken that picture. However, concluding that one of them is the mastermind merely because of that would be insufficient. They, too, might be mere pawns acting under someone else's orders. One of them, or perhaps both of them, could have taken a picture with the intent of blackmailing Class C and then asked for the mastermind's opinion on the matter. Ryuuen would infer from that that Karuizawa and X have some hidden involvement.

Ryuuen, due to his profiling of X, would believe that X may be manipulating one of the two between Ayanokoji and Yukimura or them both. It would align with X's behavior of staying in the shadows and not participating directly in the actions. From Ryuuen's perspective, X is someone who operates behind the scenes through his pawns. It would be more efficient for X if he sent someone else to act for him. While Ryuuen doesn't let Ayanokoji or Yukimura out of his sight, he focuses more on Hirata. Hirata not only has a close relationship to Karuizawa, but has also shown behavior that would align with X.

During the sports festival Hirata told Ryuuen that a surprise would hit him at the end of the festival, and Ryuen was hit with the recording. Even if Hirata doesn't give the outward appearance of someone like X or Ryuuen, he still displayed cunning behavior during the sports festival. It is also not impossible for him to be under a similar act like Kushida. In the race competition, Ayanokoji raced Manabu. Ryuuen's thought process at the time was that due to him starting to hunt X, X would panic. So Ayanokoji using his abilities against Manabu was just a form of distraction X used at the last moment, because he "panicked". Ryuuen would be aware that X would never carelessly draw attention to himself, making Ayanokoji seem less likely to be X. It would support the belief that X was panicking since Ryuuen is destroying Class D in the sport festival and actively hunting X. Furthermore, for X to know that Karuizawa has been, he should be close to her, especially considering that she hides her past. Karuizawa is someone that acts very assertive and dominating, which would hide the insecurity of being bullied in the past. She wouldn't just tell that to anyone. Rather, it has to be someone she trusts and has a close connection with.

All the evidence points at Hirata, which is why Ryuuen concludes that Hirata is most likely X.

(Emotional understanding, Emotional perception, Emotional manipulation, Tactics, Setting traps, Deception, Anticipation, Abductive reasoning)

Later on in the story, there where letter accusing Ichinose of illegally collecting points, supposedly all signed by Ryuen. However, the orchestrator behind this was not Ryuen, but rather Ayanokoji. When Ryuen stumbled upon the commotion, he initially pretended to not know anything of it. However, upon encountering one of the falsified letters, Ryuen understood this situation was X's doings and decided to use this as an opportunity to test things out on his own. Ryuen decided to play along, prompting Ichinose to show proof that she wasn't illegally collecting points. The following day, Ichinose promptly addressed the rumours, clearing her reputation. Ryuen's underlying motive for this act was to observe how the school treats rumours, even if the school does decide to take action, the punishment would not be anything overbearingly harsh since it is just a rumour.

(Tactics, Adaptability, Decision making)

Surprisingly, the school refrained from punishing Ryuen, even though it was evident that Ryuen had overstepped his bounds. This lack of response could be attributed to the recent transition within the student council's leadership, as they undertook the task of revamping the school's operational framework. Ryuen deduced that the school was willing to overlook insignificant day to day cases during this transitional phase, this information will come handy for Ryuen's schemes in the near future.

(Deductive reasoning)

Ryuen once again came up with his strategy right after hearing the rules. Although the first part of the explanation relating to pairings only allows him to manage variables within his own class, it's the second part that allows him to strategize against other classes and could ultimately help Ryuen achieve victory more effectively.

This exam allows him to focus on class

He cooperated with Kushida, who told Ryuen about her bet with Suzune which is if Suzune scores higher than her in math then Kushida will have to leave her alone, if not then Suzune will have to drop out.

Ryuen's negotiation with Kushida is as follows. Class C and Class D will be going up against each other in this exam, so Ryuen will fabricate test questions and have Kushida submit them as Class D's test questions for Class C. That way Class C will be able to beat Class D because Ryuen would have all of the answers already. In exchange, Ryuen will give Kushida the answers Class C would use against Class D so she could score high and beat Suzune.

(Strategy, Negotiation)

while going to submit test questions to the school, Horikita and Ayanokoji bumped into Ryuen, Horikita mocks Ryuen about having a traitor in his class, but Ryuen said no one would be stupid enough to betray him, why did he say that ? Because Ryuen relies on others reactions to piece together information, and Ayanokoji is still a suspect, X would know that someone did betray Ryuen, this was Ryuen basically

saying that he found X's spy, this would elicit a reaction out of X, too bad Ayanokoji is Ayanokoji so Ryuen didn't get any reaction out of him.

(Tactics, Emotional manipulation)

Earlier in the story, X sent Ryuen a text message, he told Ryuen to give him the class C's Q&As or give Kushida the wrong questions and warned Ryuen about Horikita's plan to submit the test questions before Kushida, from this Ryuen can make last second adjustments to prevent damage towards his class.

After hearing about the incident in the karaoke room, Ryuen deduces that the spilling of the juice wasn't to plant something on her, it was to figure out if Kushida had a spare uniform, because if she didn't, it would be simple to frame her by putting cheat sheets in her uniform, he also deduced that spilling the juice was just a trigger, someone predicted how everyone would react in that room.

More about the text message that X sent to Ryuen, with the given situation, Ryuen had 3 options

First option: Ignore X, just because he gave Ryuen free information that doesn't mean Ryuen has to reciprocate. This means giving the right question to Kushida and carrying out the deal as intended. But Ryuen didn't make this choice since he didn't want Horikita to be expelled since she was one of the closest links to X.

Second option: leave the questions as they were. Ryuen didn't make this choice since that gave X exactly what he wanted. Why would that give X everything ? We know that Ryuen figured out that Kushida would be framed even before the exam happened. So if Ryuen gave X the test questions and kept his questions as is, class D would beat class C without a doubt, and X would also have the opportunity to expel Kushida.

Third and final option: Give Kushida the wrong questions by changing up the current questions. Ryuen made this choice, remember, Ryuen handed in the question alongside Horikita, it was to change up the questions so that X couldn't expel Kushida since the cheat sheets would be different from the actual test and so that Horikita couldn't get expelled.

Back to the test submission scene. When Horikita was initiating the act to fool Ryuen, he already knew Horikita won so he put on an act of his own, this goes back to his method of using other people's reactions to piece together information. At that scene, Ryuen was laughing and taunting Horikita who was putting on an act of defeat. He put on this show to see how Ayanokoji would react because X already knows that Ryuen knows Horikita won. Again, unfortunately Ayanokoji is Ayanokoji so Ryuen didn't get any reaction out of him.

the Ayanokoji group said they felt like they were followed everywhere, which means Ryuen has narrowed his suspects and marked Kei as the closest link to X

Ryuen's strategy of pinning down X's identity started all the way back in volume 6 when he sent X a picture of Kei. This declaration of war was to apply pressure on X, letting him know that Ryuen will target the closest link to his identity. The strategy Ryuen has planned out has 3 stages.

Stage 1: Indirect torment. Ryuen sends goons from his class to perform conspicuous spying on class D students who are linked to X, not to retrieve information, but to pressure X by letting him know that Ryuen had eyes on him, no matter who he is or where he is. Ryuen knew Kei was X's pawn, he would use her to pressure X. From the second Ryuen learned of X's existence, he's been planning, he sent spies to keep tabs on key targets within class D, everyone thought he was doing this to find X, but they were wrong. Ryuen had his goons follow people to put pressure on X.

Stage 2: Direct torment. After Ryuen is done with mentally cornering X, Ryuen will directly confront X. Later in the volume, Ryuen and his gang went to "visit" class D to pressure X, even issuing a warning. When Koenji leaves the room, Ryuen sees an opportunity and follows him, a few other class D students also follow but this is a trap from Ryuen, by seeing the ones that showed up, Ryuen was able to narrow down his suspects even further. However, Ryuen wasn't paying attention to the ones that showed up, but rather the ones that didn't. Based on the observation Ryuen has made throughout the story, it was safe to conclude that X likes to hide in the back and use others as pawns to do his dirty work.

During this conversation, Ryuen actually lied about Koenji damaging his class in the Zodiac Exam because, from what we know about the results of that exam, Koenji actually helped Ryuen. If not for Koenji damaging Class B, Kanzaki would've never made his move. He never damaged Ryuen's class. So why would Ryuen do that? The answer is the same, reaction tactics. From the letters Ayanokoji sent in Ichinose's name, Ryuen understood that X knew the deal between him and Kanzaki. So X also is aware of entirely what happened in the Zodiac exam. So if Ryuen says something absurd like Koenji damaged their class, X showing a surprised reaction is natural due to slipping up. He wanted to catch that. Koenji also realized what Ryuen was doing, and hence played along as if he really damaged Ryuen's class, because he also

wanted to know who X was. However, Ayanokoji didn't show any reaction or didn't slip up at all.

Ryuen has now narrowed down his candidates even further, his prime candidate being Hirata. However, Ryuen needed certainty, and to get that, he needed Kei. Ryuen knows that X has been using Horikita as a puppet to avoid being found and X has gone to great lengths to do so, prime examples being the island exam, the zodiac exam, the sport festival and making an enemy out of Kushida during the paper shuffle exam so keeping a hidden identity must be important to X. Which means surveillance is effective in pressuring X. Ryuen plans to mercilessly hound X, making him live under constant paranoia, that's why he sent that picture of Kei during Volume 6. Ryuen straight up told X that he was gonna target Kei, but he didn't say when or how. And today, Ryuen would make his biggest move yet.

Stage 3: Extracting X's identity. Earlier in the morning, Ryuen sent X a text, it was marked as read so Ryuen knew he saw it. Ryuen informed X that today he would strike. Ryuen pressured X, waited until X was at his weakest and engineered the final showdown.

What Ryuen was about to do is risky, so he would only bring those who he trusts, Ishizaki, Ibuki and Albert. Ryuen intentionally didn't tell anyone what he would do today, spies like Manabe ruined his plan last time but not this time.

He called Kei to the rooftop by sending her a text demanding her to show up, and Ryuen made sure Kei knew it was him. Kei had no choice but to show up because Ryuen had leverage, he found out about Kei's past from Manabe and her friends. And piecing together all of the information he had so far, Ryuen came to the conclusion that Kei did not want her past leaked and that X promised to protect Kei if she went along with his plans. So using the knowledge of Kei's plast, Ryuen threatened Kei, either show up to the roof top or he exposes her past. Ryuen also texted X, letting X know that he invited Kei to the rooftop and would extract his identity from her using whatever means necessary. Ryuen figured that this threat was effective because if Kei was only a pawn then there's a chance X will abandon her but if Kei breaks, there's a chance for X to be found out, giving X an incentive to show up.

But what if Kei reports to the school. Ryuen assured that she wouldn't, as long as Ryuen held Kei's secret. And even if she did, based on his deduction during the fake rumor letter scene in volume 6, the school will not deal with day to day cases like this. But what if Ryuen can't get Kei to spill out X's identity? To that, Ryuen was prepared, the info Manabe gave him was crucial. Ryuen understood that victims of intense trauma can often lose their grip on reality if placed in an environment that reawakens those memories. Ryuen's plan was to put Kei in a situation where her trauma resurfaces by replicating the bullying that happened to her in the past, he would weaken her resolve and extract X's identity,

Ryuen has already studied the rooftop, he knew there was only 1 camera, Ryuen sprayed over the camera so no one could watch. Ryuen ordered Albert to stay by the door and only let Kei pass. Kei showed up and asked him what he wanted, referring to the text Ryuen sent. Ryuen knew Kei was playing dumb, Kei should be aware of everything Ryuen sent her. Ryuen asked Kei if anyone else knew about this meeting, but that was a trick question, of course she didn't, she couldn't afford to. The only person she could tell was X, and it did not matter because Ryuen already told X what was going down. Kei acted annoying and wanted to leave, Ryuen asked her why even bother coming, she could have ignored him, Kei made up an excuse, saying she didn't want him to spread fake news. Ryuen saw right through her and called her out, saying everyone here knew about her being bullied in the past, Kei did not say a word to that but her change in body language told him everything. Ryuen continued bluffing, saying how unfortunate that Manabe and her group found her secret. Kei demanded Ryuen to tell what he wanted but Ryuen just taunted her by saying that he's just here to kill time while knowing that Kei very well has a good idea of what's going on. Kei bluffed by saying if they do anything, she will report them to the school, Ryuen called her out, if she would do that, she wouldn't come here alone. Ibuki told Ryuen that Kei might be recording them but Ryuen knew Kei didn't have that option, she couldn't afford to have the content of this conversation leaked.

Ryuen's plan relied on knowing Kei's past, it was kind of a double edge sword, if Ryuen didn't reveal Kei's past, he would have leverage against X and Kei. But the second he reveals it, that leverage is gone, Ryuen knew he only had one chance to play this correctly, and the key to make all of this work was to figure out how deep the bond is between X and Kei.

Ryuen cut right to it asking Kei who she's working for, Kei told him that she had no idea what he was talking about, but her mannerisms told Ryuen a different story. Kei seemed annoyed and impatient, Ryuen figured that Kei's plan from the beginning was to deny everything. So Ryuen did what he does best, use the information he had to get a reaction. He revealed everything, about how X was the one protecting Kei behind the scenes, how X used evidence to blackmail Manabe. Again, Kei didn't say anything but Ryuen knew from her glare but Ryuen figured that she knew all of that. Ryuen even told Kei how X forced Manabe to betray class C, Kei denied knowing anything again, but this time was different, Ryuen could tell that she was genuine. Ryuen knew he had to push, so he threatened her again, saying he will reveal her past if she doesn't reveal who X is. Kei stood there in silence, and Ryuen knew she was in a tough spot. If she helps Ryuen, she will betray X and make an enemy out of him, but if she keeps quiet, Ryuen will reveal her past. Ryuen simplified her choice, boldly claiming that her only option is to give him what he wants, all she has to do is to give him a name and she's free to go. Kei asserted whether or not she gave a name, it didn't matter, Ryuen could blackmail her right away. Ryuen now understands Kei's plan, she thought long and hard to come to this answer.

The only choice left for Ryuen is to drag the information out of Kei. Ryuen commanded Ibuki to hold Kei in place. Ibuki refused at first but Ryuen guilt tripped her by bringing up her past failures, referring to the events in volume 3 and 5 so this is her chance to make up for it and Ryuen also assured her that he will take full responsibility for this. Ryuen told Ishizaki to grab buckets of water, there's a reason Ryuen didn't prepare the buckets ahead of time, by having Kei held down while they waited, it built anticipation. Kei was held against her will, wondering what would happen next so the anxiety inside her would intensify and Ryuen would amplify those feelings to get what he wanted. Kei still resisted a little by bluffing that she would report to the school but Ryuen still knew that she wouldn't and led her into more of a speculation. Ryuen figured X promised to protect Kei incase of emergency, otherwise, none of this would make sense. Kei's fiery personality would draw attention to a lot of girls and not just Manabe, it's strange that Kei lived carefree with no worry of her secret being revealed. Ryuen knew it must be because of X, X made contact with Kei when she collided with Manabe but what about before. Ryuen concluded that Kei made Hirata her boyfriend in order to protect

herself. Ryuen was correct and so Kei's eyes widened, Ryuen now understood Kei's parasitic nature. Ryuen looked into her eyes, noticing the "darkness" within, the same darkness X must have noticed.

Ever since Ryuen stepped foot into this school, he got to work scouting out and noted down all of the locations with surveillance cameras. From that, he was able to know the location of the buckets and the correct path to order Ishizaki to take them without being spotted.

Ryuen mentioned how he has been testing and figuring out how to work around the school's system. Ryuen has wondered about how the school recycles special exams, couldn't you just beat them by asking the seniors ? Though it made sense, you don't get anything useful out of asking the seniors, it could be that the school changes up rules each year but Ryuen came to a probable conclusion that each year has different rules because if you can get an edge by asking the seniors, it would defeat the purpose of the exam. Ryuen has always tried to push the limits in terms of the school's rules like researching the surveillance cameras, bribing the senior students, and making backhanded deals with Class A were all part of his experiments to ascertain what he could and couldn't do. From bribing the class D seniors by exchanging private points for information about special exams in the past and getting no responses from them, Ryuen made another probable conclusion that there was a rule to prevent seniors from leaking information about past special exams and that its penalty was something detrimental like expulsion.

Back on the rooftop, Ryuen orders Ishizaki to dump buckets of water onto Kei while Ryuen mercilessly plays with her mind. Ryuen keeps on pressuring Kei to reveal X's identity, and Kei almost let out Ayanokoji's name from her mouth.

When Ayanokoji showed up, everyone on the scene was in a state of shock except for Ryuen who kept his cool while questioning Ayanokoji.

During Ryuen's fight with Ayanokoji, Ayanokoji himself thought about how it would be one thing if Ryuen was filled with blind rage, but that wasn't the case. Ayanokoji stated that competent fighters feel despair when they're outclassed, the bigger the gap in skills the deeper the despair and the difference between Ayanokoji and Ryuen was a chasm yet Ayanokoji did not feel an inch of despair from Ryuen.

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REBUILD ARC

Some of the things Ryuen very much has over other smart characters like Sakayanagi is his understanding of his own limits and his willingness to learn from his own mistakes, that's why he kept someone like Hiyori around who's brave enough to judge his actions.

Ryuen also took Ayanokoji's advice in volume 7 to heart. His biggest mistake was his order of foes, if he had battled Ichinose, then Sakayanagi then he would have been close to Ayanokoji's level by the time he takes him on. Ryuen started by taking on Ichinose in volume 11, then in Year 2 he promised to battle Sakayangi, while constantly learning and adapting to improve his abilities before inevitably taking on Ayanokoji once again.

YEAR 1 VOLUME 7.5

YEAR 1 VOLUME 8

YEAR 1 VOLUME 9

YEAR 1 VOLUME 10

YEAR 1 VOLUME 11

YEAR 1 VOLUME 11.5

YEAR 2 VOLUME 1

YEAR 2 VOLUME 2

Ryuen called Katsuragi and Ayanokoji out to the café. One of Ryuen's main goal here is to persuade Katsuragi to join his class, this all goes back to how Ryuen wants a person who's confident and competent enough to judge his action, the only one who can do that in his class right now are Kaneda and Hiyori occasionally, and Ryuen knows taking in someone whose methods are vastly different while being able to criticize him will help cover his basis and enable him to see everything from a different perspective, and so Katsuragi is the perfect candidate. Katsuragi, while can still be rough around the edges with his strategies, is still very much ahead of the average students in every way combined with his willingness to battle Sakayanagi.

Ryuen plans to take in Katsuragi with the surface intention of giving him the chance to fight Sakayanagi while gaining his trust and turning him into a vital part of the class along the way up until Ryuen is ready to take on Ayanokoji once again.

Ryuen starts the conversation by gaining info about Katsuragi's relationship with Sakayanagi and class A. First, he brings up how Sakayanagi is pairing up with Ichinose and Shibata for the island exam. Katsuragi denied knowing anything about it. Even though Katsuragi and Sakayanagi had opposed each other, he demonstrated that there was no way he was going to share confidential information about his class with Ryuen, an enemy. From this, Ryuen was able to conclude that no matter where his stance is, Katsuragi will still have the dignity to not sacrifice the benefit of his class over personal grudges.

Ryuen continues by bringing up Katsuragi's past failures. However, Ryuen didn't get a strong reaction out of Katsuragi until he brought up Yahiko, which caused Katsuragi to slam his fist down on the table. From this, Ryuen was able to understand that Katsuragi very much cares about his allies, even though time has passed since Ryuen felt the same bitterness coming from him during the conversation after the voting exam in volume 10, Katsuragi still thinks Yahiko was still not deserving of expulsion as much as he himself was. During the conversation, Katsuragi questioned Ryuen's plan to involve Ayanokoji, and even bringing up how Kanzaki is still going solo in this exam, and he should have taken priority over the

seemingly average Ayanokoji and that even if Ryuen goes as far as getting top 1 in the island exam, the points he get will get spit by three, which would not help much for closing the distance on class A, all of this helps to prove his capabilities as a potential advisor for Ryuen who can bring from a different perspective. And notice how Ryuen keeps on extending this conversation with seemingly unnecessary words during this conversation. Ryuen does this, so he can get as best of an understanding of Katsuragi as possible.

From all of this, Ryuen was able to read through Katsuragi's entire mindset and morals. Katsuragi is a serious, straightforward person, perfect for judging Ryuen's methods and bringing a different and reliable perspective. Katsuragi also has the dignity to not sell out his allies or even those who oppose him within the same class and will always prioritize gains for his classes over personal matters. Katsuragi also very much cares about his allies and is willing to sacrifice himself for them. All of this combined with his above average abilities would make him an undeniably valuable asset for Ryuen's class.

Ryuen now moves onto persuading Katsuragi to join his class. In the end, all Ryuen wanted to do was to defeat Class A. Supposing even if he were to defeat Sakayanagi and get her expelled, if Katsuragi remained in Class A, that wouldn't be a favorable turn of events for Ryuen. If Katsuragi, someone who strongly prioritized defense, resumed command as leader of the class, then there was no getting around the fact that Class A would transform into a near-impenetrable fortress. However, if Katsuragi were taken out of the picture first, and then Sakayanagi was defeated afterward, Class A would collapse all at once. That was why Ryuen was willing to spare no expense to make sure that happened.

He first reveals that he had sold his contract in volume 3 back to Sakayanagi for 5 million points, which would ease up Katsuragi's psychological burden if he wanted to switch. Ryuen took out a slip of paper, a contract that he had prepared ahead of time. On that paper were lines detailing an arrangement that Ryuen would use the money provided for Katsuragi to be transferred over to Class B. The contract was meant to prevent Katsuragi from just taking the points and running after he was given the large sum, or from using it for other purposes. And even if Katsuragi did take the points and spent that large sum on whatever he wanted, the school would suspect him of fraud. In other words, the purpose of this contract was not to

prevent Katsuragi from doing something dishonest. It was a contract meant to prevent him from changing his mind.

Ryuen was able to draw out Katsuragi's desire for revenge, which he had kept hidden deep down, and successfully managed to bring Katsuragi over to his team. Now, Katsuragi has been brought under Ryuen's banner. One thing for sure was that this was most definitely a big plus for Ryuen's class. The gap between his class and Class A was definitely closing.