Akiyama Shinichi from *Liar Game* and Ayanokōji Kiyotaka from *Classroom of the Elite* are both portrayed as brilliant strategists, but when comparing their intelligence in terms of narrative function, depth of tactics, and realism, there are strong arguments for why **Akiyama is often considered "smarter"** than Ayanokōji. Here's a breakdown:

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1. Realism of Intelligence

- **Akiyama** is a former psychology student and con artist whose strategies are rooted in **real-world psychological manipulation, game theory, and logic**. The *Liar Game* often showcases plausible deception tactics and psychological pressure that could feasibly be applied in real life.

- **Ayanokōji** is presented as a near-omniscient, superhuman mastermind with almost no flaws. His intelligence, while entertaining, often stretches **credulity**, relying on convenience or narrative control.

✅ **Advantage: Akiyama** — more grounded and believable.

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2. Complexity and Depth of Strategies

- **Akiyama** solves intricate, multi-layered games involving hundreds of players, trust manipulation, and high-stakes consequences. His moves are often slow-burn, requiring **precise prediction of human behavior** and planning across many steps.

- **Ayanokōji** often wins through **dominance**, using superior resources, surveillance, or manipulation, but rarely needs to explain his full logic unless the story chooses to reveal it. His strategies are more about control than complexity.

✅ **Advantage: Akiyama** — deeper, more nuanced strategic execution.

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3. Use of Psychology

- **Akiyama's greatest strength** is his deep understanding of **human nature**, often outwitting opponents by exploiting cognitive biases, emotional weaknesses, and group dynamics.

- **Ayanokōji**, while intelligent, approaches people more like tools. His detachment makes his strategies feel **more mechanical**, with less psychological richness.

✅ **Advantage: Akiyama** — more psychologically astute.

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4. Stakes and Pressure

- In *Liar Game*, failure can mean **financial ruin or psychological breakdown**, which makes Akiyama's composure and consistent success more impressive.
- In *Classroom of the Elite*, the stakes are often academic or social, and Ayanokōji is never truly at risk. He's so overpowered that tension is minimal.

✅ **Advantage: Akiyama** — higher stakes, more pressure.

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5. Narrative Bias

- **Ayanokōji** is written to be "untouchable" — he's the central force behind every event, often without effort. That can feel less earned.
- **Akiyama** struggles, loses occasionally, and adapts. His victories feel like the result of real thinking rather than narrative fiat.

✅ **Advantage: Akiyama** — more believable intellectual arc.

Conclusion

Ayanokōji is a brilliant, borderline-superhuman strategist in a controlled environment. Akiyama is a human being who outwits others through real, explainable intellect and empathy-tinged manipulation.

Therefore, Akiyama is arguably "smarter" in a more meaningful, realistic, and grounded sense.

Let me know if you want a direct scenario comparison (e.g., what would happen if they faced off in a Liar Game-type situation).