

MANABU HORIKITA

The Guardian Angel
The Brilliant Genius

Ultimate Student of ANHS
The Dazzling One

Made by JayChef and DAX PMFT

STATUS: Almost finished.
WIP: MTC, Special Exam mastery statement.
SCANS: (5% Done).

Light Green - FSIQ, Memory.
Pink - EI, Intuition.
Red - Strategy, Planning, Tactics.
Yellow - Deception, Info Control.
Green - Manipulation, Leadership.
Rose - Reasoning and Thinking.
Blue - Anticipation, Prediction.
Light Purple - Perception, Observation, Cold Reading, Info Gathering.
Orange - Miscellaneous - General narrative and statements.

White - Highlights
Lighter Colors - Scans.

Cyan - Respective category the feat/statement covers.
Cream - Respective category narratively covered.

Warning: The document uses the COTE Anime, a Pseudo Canon inferior to the Main Canon (the Light Novel) in order to complete information in regards to his feats by adding extra scenes. Pseudo Canons such as COTE Anime and Manga contain fully acknowledged Canon elements of the story as long as they do not contradict the Light Novel in this case, and that is already more than fulfilled, as the used scenes help in explaining very important aspects of the Light Novel itself.

Start:

Manabu's Background and Ideology

Manabu Horikita was born as an incredibly gifted person, who was able to prove his genius early on in his life through his ability to outdo everyone around him and prove to be dozens of levels above the natural standard of the environment around him. Manabu Horikita was a child prodigy who has reached the intellectual level of already gifted highschoolers in 5th grade middle school, or possibly even elementary school.

His natural talent, which bested everyone around him and made him a dazzling light in the face of all friends and foes he built along the way, had made Manabu Horikita inspire his inferiors to follow in his footsteps. It is somewhere around that time where Horikita had begun to develop a utilitarian ideology which strives to develop and achieve the greater good for everyone according to their own share of merit.

The one inspired the most by Manabu Horikita's innate superiority and genius was his little sister Suzune, who began to feel a definitive complex of inferiority to her brother and a desperate need to follow in his footsteps in order to earn his approval. This had hurt Manabu Horikita very much, as he was seeing that

Suzune was taking away from her own self identity and diminishing her own potential to develop by doing something which was not even in accordance with Manabu's ideal beliefs. This change only continued to take place, which led to the relationship between the two siblings to only get worse until Manabu finally left for highschool.

As a child, Manabu Horikita already had the ability to sense his younger sister's "incredible talent" when she was "very small" completely prior to ANHS in all forms. Manabu even at that time looked even deeper to this and wished Suzune's potential was well polished in time enough to surpass his own abilities. Suzune overly idolizing her brother and believing she was inferior to him, in essence abandoning her own potential caused Manabu to start showing only disdain towards her sister from the start and in term shun her completely.

In truth, despite his genius granting him endless possibilities from high income jobs to getting high positions of power, Manabu Horikita never had any passion for anything in particular, and no particular destination in mind. He continued to live his life making sure to not stir his life of excellence up even as he entered ANHS, the greatest school in all of Japanese history.

He followed in his path of ultimate disciplines in terms of completing his tasks with an indifferent attitude, ultimately embracing the idea of being everyone's ultimate "role model" and serving as an "exemplary". He had done so as he entered ANHS in Class A and began fighting to keep his dominant place alongside new followers such as Tachibana Akane.

Manabu Horikita had risen up and became President of the Student Council of ANHS at only 8 months after enrolling into the school, during his first year, after he was placed in class A, he became a secretary almost instantly from enrolment and in the same year, despite overwhelming biasness from the seniors who had hated the idea of being overdone by a junior, Horikita's skills made him take the position comfortably. He was the only person to ever do that in the history of the school. But in the end, for him it was no particular achievement, it was just him serving his mindset as he merely believed it to be the right thing to do.

Horikita's ideal was further reflected in how Horikita Manabu proceeds to single handedly fight alone against the other classes while the rest of his Class A are described to hinder the class all together. Tachibana states the class lost a ton of class points as well as private points which could have been easily avoidable.

Manabu is described to be someone who sacrifices himself for his class mostly behind the scenes so no one knows his true, righteous personality. It's Tachibana herself who saw these deeds more often than anyone else.
(Leadership)

As time passed, in his second year, Manabu began looking to paint his legacy into leaving the ANHS into a better place according to his ideal. Manabu started looking into what was first and foremost a talented successor, the only one who was truly on his standard as someone called Nagumo Miyabi, a prodigy of the 2nd year class A which has overthrown the old ranking. Despite initial cooperation, Nagumo's ideals from Horikita began to shift rapidly, and now the successor had only started to bare his fangs at the mentor. Manabu reflects that his failure in cooperating and training Nagumo was his only mistake.

It is because of that escalation, at which Manabu Horikita, the icon of the Advanced Nurturing High School, had found himself in a directly opposing ideological battle where the identity of the school itself is at stake, as well as the overbearing antagonism of Nagumo, an acquaintance he had always respected that he realized his biggest regret throughout his school life. He failed to make a true friend he could trust from the bottom of his heart.

This selfless path he carved for himself was only the catalyst to exposing a side of himself he had never known to appreciate.
(ER)

Year 1

(Y1V1) - In the Club Fair meant to introduce the newly arrived first years in the club selection in ANHS, Manabu opted for an approach to silence the crowd instantly, seeing them lack the discipline and situational awareness to understand their position. Such individuals was all expected, as Manabu well understood their lack of awareness on ANHS's value on strict principles of order,

Manabu Horikita appeared in the middle of the scene, but just standing in front of the microphone with a calm look. Time passed, and people began to interpret

what his silence could mean. Was it nervousness, perhaps his mind went blank? People all around began to yell sarcastic encouragement and jokes at the seemingly inactive man on the stage, yet he just stood there. Neither the laughter nor encouragement had reached him at all.
The crowds began to wonder, what is he doing just staring with his sharp gaze at everyone? The masses started getting confused and eventually the murmurs of conversations were all reduced to a quiet and extremely tense atmosphere.

Despite silence already being made, Horikita Manabu continued his stance, turning the tension more and more dreadful, until he finally started speaking softly, revealing his powerful aura which dominated the whole gym. Despite the atmosphere remaining very tense, Horikita's presence had brainwashed the entire mass into listening thoroughly without any distraction. to the point where no one dared to utter a single whisper until he had only left not just the stage, but the whole building.

Horikita Manabu had used multiple psychological elements to enforce a way to manipulate the crowd into paying attention to him. Using a sort of silent treatment ultimately in an unconventional context to stir joy and curiosity, he had used that misperceived atmosphere to make everyone realize their mistake which quickly turned into using a "climate of fear" to incite emotional bias and naturally start growing tension between the separate groups like a domino effect. In that fearful climate, people had begun paying attention to him, which only NOW allowed Horikita to use his incredibly powerful aura to mesmerize everyone into focusing only on his words and sight alone.
The sheer Aura he installed as if "some chemical reaction had taken place", despite his incredibly calm tone and setup.
(EU, EF, Emotional & Mass Manipulation)

(Y1V1) - With the rise of his biggest rival Nagumo Miyabi and his full de facto takeover of his year, Manabu Horikita finds himself threatened by his aggressive stance to destroy the ANHS traditions he endorsed and preserved. Now with the arrival of the next generation of students, Horikita knows it is only a matter of time until Nagumo Miyabi chooses to attack the ANHS system directly in hopes to get students of other years on his side.

Manabu Horikita, prior to this, decided to recruit personnel outside of his year who were fond of his cause as a means of indirect resistance against Nagumo. Kiriyama Ikuto, the leader of 2nd year class B, who was dethroned by Miyabi, was

someone who Manabu was quick to endorse as his spy in Nagumo's year, responsible with giving information regarding every open move Nagumo does with his year, all while avoiding any sort of suspicion in regards to proving Kiriyama has sold any integral year secrets of Nagumo's camp to the president. Manabu however knew that Kiriyama's usefulness in that circumstance only extends to gaining information, which if Manabu himself finds using in any case, it would be very easy for Nagumo to trace it back to Kiriyama and destroy him as he had done with others. Additionally, Horikita knew that in a confrontation, Kiriyama would stand no chance even with Horikita's support in his cause.
The risk Kiriyama had placed on himself in that position could only prove to be a strategic benefit if it can cause serious damage to Nagumo's administration and most importantly be a threat in the long term.
In his situation, Horikita has very little time to find someone who can pose a threat to Nagumo even after Manabu himself leaves and is capable enough to at least come close to Nagumo's ability.
That leads Horikita to seek the ultimate ally in the new school year arrived in ANHS.

A student council president has the ability to design their system of introducing the new students of the first year to the S system which ANHS works on, this gives them the advantage of dictating the exact principles the students should follow. Horikita seeks to instigate the ideals the school has followed and produced results based on his utilitarian ideology which aligns with the principle of the class battle promoting the formation of leadership and class unity.

However, in his case, Manabu Horikita has decided to use his ability to gauge the abilities of the new students and be able to compare their problem solving skills and ability to cooperate with others. This is the first step Manabu does in finding a person whom he can seek into grooming as his successor against Nagumo.

Horikita Manabu's plan to handle the S System for the first year is to provide a scenario where they are tasked with figuring it out by themselves. This is done so in a way where a class's performance is directly depicted by their point count from the beginning of the year until May 1st, this including not just to the students individually understanding the ANHS false utopia and being able to preserve their private points by either fully deducing or taking preventive measures to keep their private points for the next months, but also a class's unity and ability to communicate and understand the situation they found themselves in.

Manabu Horikita was able to project the entire line of deductions necessary to completely confirm the ANHS's true intentions from the perspective of a first year in a way which would not be very difficult for the ones with decent ability to understand. He had done so by already taking existent elements of dangers of the S System, such as the existence of free items for the ones lacking in points, to abstractly interpret them in a way someone novel into the ANHS system would get them. This was an important precaution in his strategy as it facilitated the first year's ability to adapt. In order to combat the expectations of the first year that ANHS is just a high class highschool working on the principles of any other academy, this confirmed that there's obvious red flags which would be deemed as strange by any person with a good logic.

Horikita however could not make it too easy, as doing so would lead to a domino effect where every person would sooner or later learn of the strange aspects of ANHS which would then lead to most people getting it. In order to combat this and make it so that it is actually a difficult test for a whole class to pass, Manabu had fabricated the whole day 1 presentation of ANHS's S System himself, giving detailed instructions to the teachers in regards to how they are supposed to present it.

The Class System was described to them in a misleading and deceptive manner, which included many abstractions which could have multiple meanings if paid attention to carefully. This is designed so that if people understood the idea of the given details by the instructions prior to getting the hints of the ANHS system, they could go back and reinterpret the misleading statements of the ANHS's S System correctly after they saw the hints, making them understand how the S System really works. In the explanation the teachers were tasked to give, there is no falsity in any of the statements given so that it is a pure test of their awareness and ability to discern the situation they are in as a whole collective.

While Chabashira explained the mechanics of the S system, instructed by Manabu, she very subtly yet deliberately states points are automatically deposited into their account every month and right after confirming the gain of 100,000 points already.
This creates a layered trap and delusion where it presents a 100,000 monthly allowance image by deliberately leaving out the exact number of points earned the next month via variables which is further justified by the school being run

by the Japanese government themselves. This naturally facilitates all the students who couldn't see through this sophism.

Furthermore, to further cloak suspicion from the hidden meaning behind the "generous" offer of points, Chabashira additionally adds the fact points can't be transferred after graduation and directly convinces them not to save up points as a way to facilitate anxiety to the students that their seemingly carefree life will be only limited among school where they'll have to prepare to develop their own currency as independent adults post ANHS—this indirectly contradicts the purpose of ANHS to the subtle objective of nurturing the young generation in order to support Japan.
Chabashira further telling the students to do as they like not only encourages students on the surface level to freely spend their points, but it gives the direct message to the more keen students that Chabashira encourages spending points yet at the same time discourages saving making them question the surface level structure of the S System.
Not a single lie was told yet the entire description of the S System was intentionally embedded with sophism to draw out a sharp mind without a naive view which is actually Manabu needs to counter an opponent like Nagumo Miyabi who specializes in extorting the naive mind.

With the students being indirectly encouraged to spend their points with no restrictions, Horikita places another set of hints in the form of not just the abnormality of how much money they are supposed to receive if they are evaluated by merit, but also creating anxiety when it comes to the schools overindulgence and leniency which seems to have no place in that environment.

In the end, all students from all classes are to be punished for their ignorance under such an approach of evaluation. However the ones with not just high situational awareness but also good communication skills are rewarded for their ability to grasp the S System sooner than others, making it very punishing if taken poorly, all which is according to Horikita's ideology.

Ideologically, this system points obvious flaws in not just individual carelessness, but also in class chemistry, as it highlights the people who were cautious enough not to spend money, yet they still suffer because of the ones who spent and had not been alerted by the more doubtful and perceptive ones. This affects the perception of all individuals in how they are supposed to adapt themselves and begin cooperating with others for the sake of their own survival

inside the school, raising the stakes in the face of a big struggle if they fail to integrate.
This further sets the stage into manipulating every student of the year into understanding the future competitive scenario of the class battle and taking it very seriously, making them take specific functions inside the class and form their leadership while beginning to form strategies.

Manabu Horikita uses this system in parallel to crafting the class battle in order to gauge out specific brilliant minds able to aid him in his goal to stop Nagumo. This is depicted by two actions he takes, analyzing the data of all the new students who have entered ANHS in the year, including background checks and entrance exam scores, and also even doing private interviews with the seemingly capable minds of the year in the first month of ANHS.
Horikita Manabu had taken and interviewed both Katsuragi Kohei and Sakayanagi Arisu in regards to their knowledge on the S System very soon after Class A's brilliant score of Class Points was revealed. Horikita's true goal behind that meeting was to read into their abilities and mindset, in order to see if they are particularly fitting for Horikita himself to approach them for a cooperation against the Vice President. Because of such meetings and later failures, Manabu Horikita in the future concludes Katsuragi unfit to join the student council, as despite his mentality fitting, Manabu precludes that he would be someone Nagumo would easily manipulate.

(V1) - In his full analysis of all students' scores in ANHS, Manabu Horikita noticed a linear pattern of 50s in the scores of a student named Ayanokoji Kiyotaka. Horikita checks and sees that 50s in some of the exams is possible only by answering some of the very difficult questions in order to deliberately adjust the score to match perfect 50. Horikita immediately concludes that this student is holding his abilities back for some reason, and decides to keep constant watch on him, deeming him a potential candidate in his goal. For this reason, later he again sees that in the midterm preparation exam he again scores 50s, thus concluding that he is holding back, probably to make some sort of statement.

(V1) - Additionally, very soon in her enrollment, Horikita Manabu had also learned of Suzune's attendance in ANHS, as well as her allocation to Class D. Soon seeing her attitude, Manabu understood that her locked and flawed mentality still doomed her in these 3 years he was away. Instead of meeting her immediately however, he waits for the 1st May reveal which is bound to crush the incompetent and not responsible class D into absolute ruin, but more

importantly Manabu understands that the reveal of the S System and Class D's incompetence along with hers would lead to a severe hit in Suzune's built up pride and comfort in her own abilities, which would then lead to a downwards spiral in her thinking that she was unfairly placed into the class of "defectives" and that her individual abilities are above the norm, misunderstanding the criteria of evaluation for what is deemed as such, and also failing to grasp her own shortcomings.

(V1) - Instead, Manabu begins a period of constant monitorization of the 1st Year Class D, either by camera or direct watch, an example of this is multitasking a private appointment outside the council room in a private one in close proximity to class D's taken swimming classes, where he is able to watch them directly.
It is because of that monitorization that Manabu Horikita is able to constantly observe his antisocial sister only talking to one boy, that Ayanokoji Kiyotaka who he is also interested in.
Ever since Ayanokoji he got 50s on his entrance exam following the abnormal pattern of constant 50s, taking into account the #5 question Ayanokoji got correct was only solved by 3% of all students this year but in his case flawlessly using a complex formula to solve it and in addition, Manabu additionally observed the exclusive interactions Ayanokoji had with his sister Suzune to understand that Ayanokoji is the closest thing Suzune has to a friend.
This all leads him to consider making a move into testing Ayanokoji Kiyotaka.

(Y1V1) - Horikita started planning out an encounter between him and Ayanokoji directly, one where he would test not just his judgment in a difficult situation, but also his own moral stance in regards to him having to defend a friend, depending on how Ayanokoji Kiyotaka does on this test, Manabu will advance with his primary goal of evaluating his abilities to strategize and adapt, in order to evaluate whether or not he can be a reliable ally against Nagumo Miyabi.

(Y1V1) - Before planning to make any move on Kiyotaka however, Manabu beforehand indirectly arranged the meeting between himself and his sister Suzune during the night where it would be concealed from other third parties including from the second year related students controlled by Nagumo Miyabi.
The entrance exam results were right before the first week of May in which the days later starts prepping the formulation for the meeting while waiting for the appropriate time in the late night to execute it.
The execution of the plan was reliant on how the true nature of the S System presented gave Class D a reality check, ever since that declaration of the class

having zero points before the first week of May. Manabu from this predicted Suzune's stress levels reaching a new high due to her dreams of wanting to reach Class A were already becoming narrow - the dream of wanting to reach her brother using methods of academics and achievements to do so.
However this alertness wouldn't negate her weakness in mistaking isolation for independence, Manabu was aware of this fact and calculated Suzune very early on in the week would quarrel with Class D by not only taking Suzune's unwillingness to act in social activities but in addition to foreseeing Class D's sudden urge to do study in desperation from the announcement of the class having zero points forcing them out of complacency as this process links to the thought process of a general student individual given high quality luxury at the start of the year making them oblivious to the loophole in exchange - this was Manabu's thought process regarding Class D as a whole.
By how Manabu linked collision between Class D and Suzune is Class D's need for better grades as only a small minority are proficient in academics.
With Suzune having one of the exceptionally highest grades in the class, it would only be natural for Class D to make contact with Suzune at the very first week even if subtle which links to Kushida forming a study group for academically struggling students such as Sudo, Ike and Yamauchi in which she invited Suzune to join.
Due to Suzune believing in the flawed concept of developing her grades will be able to catch up to her brother, naturally speaking, Suzune would look down on others with poor grades openly which she did to the study group causing a class conflict between Class D and Suzune.
This resulted in adding up more stress and a devaluation in self esteem regarding Suzune internally as this increased gap in isolation only further pushed her goal of reaching Class A away.
(EU, Inductive & Deductive Reasoning, Foresight)

After school ended, by observing the crumbling relationship between Class D and Suzune from afar, especially from his almost daily role of monitoring all students from all year groups at all times, Manabu predicted Suzune couldn't get proper sleep from the built up stress and would stay awake during the night.
This is where Manabu sets up their reunion as he's aware of Suzune's struggles and wanted to confirm if her mental fortitude and willingness to act was eligible enough to be regarded as still having potential remaining to head towards the path of reaching to Class A.
By taking this into account, Manabu, knowing his sister's movements better than anyone, predicted she'd struggle to even sleep and admit to exit her dorm as a

way to cope with her currently low mental fortitude state. Manabu, who was just outside of the dorm at a time he predicted when Suzune would have her need by understanding the pattern of her daily activities to the point where he knew when she would be the most likely to exit her dorm at night, had signaled Suzune while in the outside the dormitory building for her to vaguely see him - prompting Suzune to exit her dorm room in her school uniform and call the elevator to the ground floor in which Manabu would initially enter the building to meet up after three years. It is likely that Manabu routinely patrolled in that area at that time for more days as he passively waited on meeting Suzune.

(V1) - While setting up the meeting between him and Suzune, Ayanokoji suddenly wakes up and calls on the elevator before Suzune does in order to buy a drink from the vending machine.
The two reasons Manabu is absolutely certain it's not Suzune is that the ANHS dormitory building is built so the girls' dormitory is on the seventh floor and above while the boys' dormitory is on the first-sixth floor:
Ayanokoji calling on the elevator would clearly show a male student is present inside the elevator as no boys are meant to be beyond the seventh floor at such a late time in the first place.
In order for Manabu to know it was Ayanokoji specifically, he looked right at the CCTV monitor of the inside of the elevator to see through and identify Ayanokoji inside.

Manabu immediately begins taking into consideration that Ayanokoji could potentially spot them, but instead he adapts his strategy in a way he will take advantage of this as a way to test Ayanokoji's conviction and moral stance in regards to his friends. He wants Ayanokoji to spot him and see how he would act. In case of any attempt of a recording of his violent actions towards Suzune, Manabu himself would be vigilant to ensure that no evidence will survive either by his ability to negotiate or taking the phone by force.

As the elevator reached ground level, Manabu had already removed himself from the building to keep his presence hidden. The moment Ayanokoji exits the elevator is when Suzune immediately calls the elevator back up, from after Ayanokoji buys a drink from the vending machine and notices the elevator being used, he's curious enough to know who's roaming the building this late.

Manabu then lures Ayanokoji towards them using the CCTV monitor as a way to see through Suzune inside of the elevator in which he does so. Around that same time is when Manabu begins to approach Suzune himself out of the CCTV area.

As Suzune reached ground level, exiting the building to find Manabu, the initial meeting between the two siblings had been arranged. Everything done so is to proceed as initially planned, which is to make Suzune leave ANHS for her own sake.

Despite her immense potential to develop and very high standard ability, Manabu had judged that Suzune would only live a life of suffering and humiliation in ANHS as a class D student, slowly diminishing her pride and taking away from any remnant of her self identity. Despite everything that happened between them, Manabu still loves his sister a lot and wishes to avoid having her suffer by getting herself in an environment of constant failures without the ability to escape. More importantly, Horikita knows that if he wants Suzune to escape living in his shadow, his only option is to forcefully isolate herself from him and cut all contact possible. Manabu knew that getting Suzune out of ANHS was his best bet at fixing his sister.

While Horikita Manabu had managed to remain at the top while maintaining a selfless ideology which devotes himself to benefit the students of the school greatly and aims to treat everyone fair despite of the punishing class system, his utilitarian stance has its own twists. He believes solely that as long as the intended results are achieved, then any means of achieving said result are acceptable, as they are still in pursuit of the ideal outcome.
While he is highly calculating and never takes unnecessary steps, Horikita Manabu is willing to stoop very low, to the point of manipulation, coercion and violence if it means achieving his ideal.

Despite ANHS being a projection of a political environment as a means to train the next individuals to rule Japan, in such scenarios Horikita maintains a clear conviction seemingly bringing the utmost harmony and natural positive development that can be attained. This is why Manabu is so respected by Machiavellians such as Nagumo and (Ayanokoji to an extent), who know very well what they're doing when causing major distress and pain to those around them. Manabu truly fights against the school system itself in a similar way Nagumo Miyabi does.
Additionally. Manabu isn't delusional to not acknowledge the fact that ANHS is a

place which greatly encourages elements completely out of his idealism of resort as possible methods and knows that to survive this school, you simply can't avoid bribery, manipulation, tactics or hurting other people. This is proven by his tendency to also resort to such methods at times he DEEMS necessary.
Manabu therefore had decided to make his sister listen with force. Upon their meeting, Manabu displayed no emotion in his expressions, and more so looked at his sister as an uninteresting existence.
While he listens to Suzune's pleas and promises of reaching Class A and catching up to him, Manabu directly reminds her that her failures are because of her stupid mindset and that her being in Class D is no different. He directly asserts that from the position Suzune is right now it is impossible to recover, so therefore he wishes her to immediately drop out, guilt tripping her further that Manabu will be disgraced by Suzune's mere presence as people start to learn about her.
With his attitude, Manabu utterly shatters Suzune's composure and makes her desperate to have his brother listen, but it's futile as she more and more begins to think she is nothing but a burden to the brother she respects so much.

Manabu in reality was concealing all of his emotions and had put a facade to the point anyone could have perceived that he considered her nothing but a despicable object, not showing how hurt he was by having to do this to the sister he loves so much. However if it was for her own sake, he was firm into doing it until the very end.

This was something he did while knowing that Ayanokoji is listening in on them, preparing to see his reaction and whether or not he decides to intervene.

As expected, Suzune's desperation and last cling to her copium made Manabu make sure she will not recover her confidence after this meeting. He grabbed his sister and was about to throw her on the ground of concrete, hurting her to a moderate degree as a definite punishment which will be something she will be reminded with every loss of Class D in the future. Manabu estimated that with this, it would only be a matter of time until Suzune completely breaks and ultimately decides to listen to her brother, seeing she cannot do anything to change the situation in ANHS and fulfill her promise of catching up to him.

Just when he was about to, Ayanokoji leaped out and grabbed his hand, stopping him from doing anything. Manabu was able in accordance to it being a coincidence, faking surprise and also generating hostility, testing Ayanokoji's

behavior in the given situation. Seeing that he is confident in being able to restrain him, Horikita attacked him instantly after letting go of his hand, and to his surprise, Ayanokoji was able to fully dodge. He asks him to see if he ever had any training, but gives no serious answer, again just choosing to hide his abilities like always. to which Manabu is intrigued by him much more than before.
Despite seeing that Suzune, even when she had made herself a friend still mistakes solitude with independence, he abandons his plan of making Suzune drop out of the school, seeing that things could become interesting with Ayanokoji Kiyotaka around her, a man he now looks as a prime candidate to seek in his quest.
Manabu confirmed Ayanokoji possessed not just good combat abilities, but a good mentality of being willing to help his friends in need, but also that he has a good relationship with Suzune in which she will benefit from.
(Planning, Tactics, Sensory, Indirect Manipulation, Deception, Foresight, Deductive Reasoning, Information Gathering, EU)

(Y1V2) - Manabu gets notified of a conflict between Class C and Class D in regards to allegations against Class D for Sudo assaulting Ishizaki and the other two Class C students with him. He uses this quarrel as an opportunity to plan and further test Ayanokoji's abilities as a way to approve of his overall evaluation of him.

Note: This further approves the initial interpretation regarding Manabu in V1 as at the very next volume, Manabu tests Ayanokoji's Strategy/Planning + Manipulation and was confident in him devising a plan after hearing the arbitration implying Ayanokoji has experience in these type of limitations + problem solving.

Manabu initially before involving himself in the meeting was informed of the conflict between Class C and Class D with both sides having no proof on each other.
And with that information alone Manabu managed to foresee the appearances of both Suzune and Ayanokoji. Manabu already had been aware Class C and Class D are having an arbitration related to petty violence allegations with the latter being the accused via Ken Sudo. While knowing Class D is already in dead water with zero class points; if Sudo's accusation was indeed proven true, Class D would sustain even more fatal consequences. With Suzune's newfound

determination to try for A class at all costs, Manabu was certain she would be involved in this case. Even though her current self is “incompetent”, he knows she wouldn't leave the situation as it is now to undoubtedly guarantee her class no hope of reaching Class A at all. Regardless, knowing his sister better than anyone, Manabu understands she doesn’t possess abilities to fully settle this endeavor. Because of that, he predicted Ayanokoji will be present as a part of Class D as well to support Suzune as he’s the first friend she’s had, even from the homeroom instructor’s perspective Suzune has made a friend in which Manabu saw through the fact that was Ayanokoji on his own. Considering that Suzune is friends with Ayanokoji then it means she trusts him enough to be a valuable ally to the class and assuming Manabu’s evaluation of him is true, he wants to see how Ayanokoji would formulate a strategy to tackle this feud after listening to the arbitration.

Manabu while abruptly being present in the arbitration would naturally bring up confusion and skepticism to the people involved as even Sae, a teacher who’s been in the school for a long time, implied that Manabu’s choice of attending such a situation was never known in the past before. To goal post his real intentions, Manabu bluffed his reason for taking part was to try and attend issues entrusted as student council president even if they’re seen as petty brawls which aligns to his overall character viewed by the school to be suspected of suspicion; all the while not even glancing at his sister once.
(Abductive Reasoning, Deductive Reasoning, Foresight, EU)

(Y1V2) - Manabu made preparations in advance of the arbitration set to happen in the student council and purposely set himself to act as the judge to control and dictate the conditions of the arbitration. In addition, Manabu is fully aware of both Ishizaki’s and Sudo’s evaluation due to his reach as student council president, able to gain access to personal information relating to each student. During the arbitration, Manabu predicted Ayanokoji would formulate a strategy to save Class D and would avoid spearheading the role as a lawyer for Sudo but instead act as support for Suzune regarding that role.

Since Manabu is aware of Ayanokoji’s record of being overall average, he knows Ayanokoji well enough to understand he’s the type of student to avoid attention and mainly be on the sidelines. Which is exactly why he predicted Ayanokoji would simply observe or at the very least not directly attack the Class C students to be more open during the arbitration.

In addition to taking Ayanokoji's thought process in account, Manabu also understood Suzune lacks the ability to handle such a situation on her own especially with his unexpected presence being there which only worsens her ability to think coherently.
Manabu of course knew that would be the case which is why he predicted Ayanokoji would later make her snap back to her senses in the first place. This would further verify Suzune's will to be more believable and powerful regarding Manabu's evaluation but even then he's still aware Suzune with her individual current abilities can't give out any definitive evidence throughout the arbitration regardless.
Furthermore, Manabu is already aware and took into account Sudo's evaluation from his problematic behavior and low decision making. Being aware that one of the classes is spreading a falsehood about the opposing class, with Sudo being the center of it all with him being the accused he'd predict his reactions would cause the arbitration to be an endless and violent back and forth between the two classes from a guaranteed rejection of compromise via Sudo.
By taking all of this to account, Manabu from the beginning of the arbitration predicted its final outcome to end in failure with no confirmed Class being seen as guilty. Because of this Manabu had ended the arbitration allowing him to enter the execution phase of the proceeding GTM plan.
(Planning, EU, Predictions, Abductive Reasoning, Cold Reading)

The Execution

After hearing each class' explanation long enough, Manabu purposely gave a small opening for each class to gather more evidence or the guilty class to admit their fault by regrouping in the student council tomorrow at 4:00 pm. Failing to do either of those would result in declared expulsion to the class with the least sufficient evidence.
Manabu does this in order to test the extent of Ayanokoji's Strategy, Planning and Adaptability which are still mostly unknown to him to determine if he's eligible to have a spot on the student council and is also the main reason why Manabu made sure he acted as the judge beforehand in order to have the ability to implement this. It's implied the time Manabu gave the classes are particularly sparse as Suzune had attempted to extend the amount of time needed before recruiting in which is then rejected by Sae as Manabu would have mentioned extra time if he were to supply it; the limited amount of time is to further test Ayanokoji's Adaptability.

The best way to do that is give him an opportunity where he can make a strategy in an environment where he can easily conceal himself to avoid standing out to test his Deception while at the same time Manabu conceals his own intentions to the rest of the people present. By the time the first meeting ended, Manabu Horikita had already predicted that Ayanokoji was formulating a plan to win the case. This is entirely logical on Manabu's part based on the fact Ayanokoji came along with Suzune to the student council and is already aware he's hiding promising abilities which is the main reason why he found time to attend the arbitration in the first place. Furthermore, already confirming Ayanokoji's instincts and intuition, Manabu inferred that he has a moderate level of experience to endure limitations like this to form a strategy. Manabu wanted to confirm this from Ayanokoji in which he dismissed Manabu out of the fact he had no plan well at the same time implying Suzune is completely confident in Sudo's innocence.
However Manabu knows Suzune too well to believe she'd be confident in settling the case all on her own. That's why because of Ayanokoji's dismissal, Manabu used Airi as a means to force Ayanokoji to confirm a plan formulation (even if said indirectly).
He did this by overloading and demoralizing the already sobbing Sakura Airi due forcing down the narrative to why her believability is doubtful due to her lack of definitive proof and was quite literally calling her a liar.
Manabu already has proven to have an educated level of Ayanokoji's thought process to anticipate based on verbally severing Sakura's psyche, Ayanokoji would be forced in a situation where he informs Manabu he believes her testimony as a means to purposefully give a hint to Manabu which confirmed to him that Ayanokoji will be able to win the case for the sake of easing Sakura.

After Class C withdrew their complaint on the day after the arbitration Manabu gathered information of these attributes about Ayanokoji:

- Ayanokoji has great adaptability and formulation speed as he's able to form + execute a strategy in Class D's current situation in under a day
- Ayanokoji possesses concealment + indirect manipulation abilities to keep his involvement hidden to the very end via using his sister Suzune
- Ayanokoji's strategy execution is good enough to successfully drive Class C to a corner in such a limited amount of time whilst keeping his existence null

Manabu had finally confirmed Ayanokoji is competent in Sensory, Experience, Strategy, Planning, Manipulation and Deception as a whole which all qualities

confirmed by Manabu in his eyes are essential in fighting against Nagumo Miyabi (which is shown in especially V7.5 for example) and the main reason why Manabu puts so much trust in Ayanokoji in the future volumes.

However keep in mind that if Ayanokoji DIDN'T meet Manabu's expectations when he would have punished by Manabu along with Suzune, it's highly implied Manabu would likely expel either his sister, Sakura or Ayanokoji himself as all three of them gave the testimony that they find Sudo "completely innocent" which would be seen as a straight lie towards the student council president himself which obviously wouldn't be overlooked and would be classified as a serious offense. Manabu even references potential expulsion if allegations aren't made sound or if the deadline of evidence wasn't met.
But because of that, Manabu managed to confirm his high evaluation of Ayanokoji being truly sound which is exactly why he wanted him to join the student council in the first place despite the latter rejecting the offer. This still didn't change the fact Manabu had every intention in having an eye on Ayanokoji throughout his remaining time in ANHS.
Manabu was making preparations in advance to Combat the direct opposition to his ideals and work, which was quickly rising to power. Getting a person he deemed competent enough to not get destroyed or used by Nagumo was a priority for Manabu.
(Deception, EQU, Foresight, Comprehension, Perception, Tactics, Logical Reasoning, Triangulation, Information Gathering)

(Y1V1) - Manabu mastered Karate to the level of 5th Dan and Aikido the level of 4th Dan.
At the age of 18, being a man with a status of "Master/Instructor" of Karate is unheard of, as it takes an average of 15/20 years of experience, directly depicting Manabu of being a World Class level prodigy in multiple branches of martial arts simultaneously.
The youngest World Record holder of 2nd Dan is almost 12 years, 3rd Dan it's almost 14, up to 5th Dan a pattern can clearly be seen.
Same story with Aikido, it takes an average of 4-5 years to learn to the 1st Dan of Aikido, from there, getting to the 4th Dan would require as long as 10+ of practice, Manabu should've done this in a way faster time period than usual.
He has done BOTH of these, when it's almost impossible to reach such a level at an early age anyway.
What's more ridiculous to consider is that not only is Manabu a childhood prodigy by default, but he has mastered them at an age younger than 16, before

he entered ANHS and became the President, who is not allowed to be part of any club.
(Cognitive Proficiency Index, Fluid Reasoning Index)

(Y1V1) - Despite Ayanokoji's standing as a class D student, Horikita's initial evaluation of him revolved in some aspects which made him very promising in his perspective.
- Manabu is aware about how the student breakdown into the classes works which was mentioned in Y1V4.5. Not all the superior students in ability are placed in A class, there exists some sort of balancing to ultimately create an environment where the lesser students have a chance to make a comeback. There are certain students which should be way higher in the class distribution by ability, Ayanokoji is one of these students in Manabu's eyes.
- Manabu's sole influence allowed him to get his hands on the detailed results of the 1st year special exam, making Ayanokoji conclude that Horikita indeed saw his test scores, leading Manabu to infer that Ayanokoji is indeed holding back his ability. Combined with Ayanokoji's combat ability and reflexes, Manabu concluded that Ayanokoji's abilities are at a different level. Which made him extremely interested to evaluate further.
4 aspects, 2 revolved around his abilities, one about his class placement,and the last one about the strange difference in Ayanokoji's resume and student report.
(Inductive Reasoning, Influence)

(Y1V4.5) - Manabu's information reach is proven to be immense as he is able to even get information on rumors about Horikita Suzune being the mastermind of the island
exam, which was only a drawn conclusion by the Y1 students themselves.
Manabu still deduced that Ayanokoji was the one who deliberately spread it as a way to cover his actions under Suzune's name and have a high amount of reach under the radar, and has a grasp Suzune's abilities to know what she is able to do or not as he himself stated firmly in addition to already learning Ayanokoji possesses amazing Indirect Manipulation and Concealment to pull it off in his V2 plan.

It is said that the Student Council President title holds no true power, but the person himself can build it. Manabu's huge intelligence and achievements have been mentioned multiple times by the teachers and Nagumo as brilliant.
(Abductive Reasoning, Deductive Reasoning, Overall Intellect, Information Gathering, Influence)

(Y1V4.5) - On this next occasion, Nagumo getting Ichinose into the Student Council to use as in his further affairs made Manabu have to take desperate measures in forming some sort of resistance outside of the 2nd year. Manabu from the start had to reject both Ichinose and Katsuragi from the SC, lying about them being unfit for the council. Despite their abilities being more than enough to enter, it was not enough for them to not get manipulated or influenced by Nagumo as he predicted it would happen later.
ALL seats of the student council were taken, except the one for the 2nd Vice President as a direct desperate resort to declare war on the Nagumo administration. Because after witnessing his activities all this time, including Ayanokoji's strategies and concealment, Manabu reasoned that if anyone was capable of being a threat to Nagumo under the right conditions, it would be Ayanokoji, which would have so many advantages over Nagumo initially.
He was willing to do this despite the tremendous damage the school's reputation would have if a first year student of the lowest class would become Vice President.
(Acting Skills, Misdirection, Intuition, Predictions, Castling, Observation, Planning)

(Y1V4.5) - Manabu approaches Ayanokoji who hides in front of Keyaki Mall while the weather is described to be excessively hot. Manabu inferred that Ayanokoji couldn't have been having a scheduled meeting in the scorching hot weather as Ayanokoji told him he was waiting for someone in which he was telling the truth but not in the context implicating that of a meeting.
(Abductive Reasoning)

(Y1V4.5) - During Katsuragi's request to the council of wanting them to deliver a package and message card to his family where Ayanokoji was present, however due to its involvement of contact to the outside of ANHS, it's an illegal and forbidden request by the council.
From this, Manabu wanted to test Katsuragi's reasoning and understanding of the school system while also making him understand the general mechanism of

the point system in correlation to the school rules, and also that despite his request being illegal, he is free to bypass it as long as no one is aware of it.
As Ayanokoji deduced, Manabu was only talking about what happens when the rule violation is exposed, and not when it's left undiscovered.
Manabu had given a chance in parallel to Katsuragi through this hidden message, telling him that he was willing to turn a blind eye to an illegal action if done without any detection.
Manabu also deduced and saw through Ayanokoji and him staying after Katsuragi left first, that Ayanokoji was going to involve himself.
His process on how he deduced Ayanokoji's main intentions from the fact he visited the Student Council along with Katsuragi. Considering Ayanokoji told him while standing in front of Keyaki Mall that he was waiting for someone, he reasoned that the individual was likely Katsuragi as he came to the student council yesterday and the day before during renovation. While not fully confirming his aim involving Katsuragi, Manabu was sure the current conversation would confirm this said aim.
After his talk with Katsuragi, Ayanokoji still decided to stay and explained the loophole of not involving the school. In other words, despite Ayanokoji knowing, avoided warning Katsuragi about the loophole implying Ayanokoji's true aim in coming to the student council was just to find out Katsuragi's intentions;
Nothing more even before the student council finished renovation which is why he didn't leave along with him.
(Dismissal, Tactics, Abductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning, Emotional Understanding, Perception)

(Y1V4.5) - He is known by the school as possibly the best and most successful student of all time in the ANHS. This is HUGE, considering the fact that ANHS is confirmed to be the best highschool of Japan in future setting, and on top of that 30 years old. This means that Manabu is genuinely one of the smartest young people in all of Japan in the last 30 YEARS. Which is backed by the further statement of him being an "Incredible genius".
(Intellect)

(Y1V5) - Manabu Horikita is constantly observant of every class in every year of ANHS, he analyzes their circumstances, typical behavior and mentality and forms a conclusion about their ability and potential. He has done so with every class but he only mentioned his conclusion of class D during the Sports Festival,

as he was able to see a change in how organized and united they are, what he had also seen especially as proven in his dialogue with Ayanokoji, was very subtle change in his sister's mentality.
Manabu also noticed the fact that the participation table of Class D's was leaked by observing the multiple disadvantageous matchups they had against their competitors from afar. Testing himself to see if Suzune is aware of this.
(Abductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning, Observation, Perception)

(Y1V5) - Manabu Horikita, in Horikita Suzune's monologue, was stated to reach her current Highschool level as early as his 1st year in middle school, possibly even earlier than that. Which from any perspective of intelligence, makes Manabu's Crystallised Intelligence and Intellect absolutely insane.
Horikita herself developed a complex regarding her ability due to the fact that she wanted to be acknowledged by Manabu as a competent individual.
Despite her working hard to develop her individual abilities to such an extent that no person her age was even comparable to her, but compared to her brother, she was simply nothing.

Manabu's harsh rejection of Suzune's doesn't come from the fact that her insane abilities are subpar in the Horikita family, but because of her mindset filled with obsession and desperation, tainting her true potential to develop into what actually gives a person value in society.
(Crystallised Intelligence, Overall Intellect, Emotional Understanding)

(Y1V5) - At Ayanokoji's confirmation, Manabu concluded the immense potential Suzune has to outgrow herself even further after he perceived a change in the organization of her class only because of her. This is important for later.
(Emotional Understanding)

(Y1V6) - At the time of Kushida's and Suzune's bet, Manabu was called in to be a witness and make sure that no side will go back on their promise. Suzune never told Manabu any type of detail about who is he meeting as she mentioned she didn't yet Manabu recognised Kushida at first glance and knew her name, a person who he had not seen in more than 3 years since the time he was in junior high school and Kushida was just out of elementary school. Aside from recognising her after all this time, Manabu goes on the say that he DOES NOT forget anyone's name, which means that he is aware of every person's name he

had met in his past institute, as well as having memorized every name of multiple ANHS generation of students as he observes and makes evaluations of everyone. This is insane Long Term Memory and Memory Capacity. This likely means he has Photographic Memory and that he is comparable to Yagami Takuya in it.
(Long-Term Working Memory, Data Analysis)

(Y1V7) - Manabu when visiting Ayanokoji's dorm room from information related to Nagumo, Manabu as soon as he entered the room immediately noticed Ayanokoji's tea and garbage can full of paper towels.
Doing so he instantly induced Ayanokoji to just recently clean his room and was essentially taking a slight breather.
(Observation, Inductive Reasoning)

(Y1V7) - Manabu predicts that Nagumo will spread his focus on both the third year and the first year while completely fortifying his control of the 2nd, he predicts the next year to have a large number of expulsions similar to the current year, around the number of tens directly caused by Nagumo.
(Predictions, Abductive Reasoning)

(Y1V7-7.5) - With the rise of Nagumo Miyabi, the threat of his ideology being ingrained in the school's foundation and Manabu's efforts to get Ayanokoji in the council as a contingency plan being not for much, he had decided to formulate a plan meant to rage warfare on the Nagumo administration from the shadows using whatever limited resources and tools he has at his disposal in order to conserve the school's identity.
It was very important that all the preparation had to be done before his graduation, even if the strategy ends up extending next year.
Manabu's information about Nagumo is very limited due to the large withholding of information the latter has, in fact. Manabu gets most of his information about the general year 2 affairs from Kiriyama.
Elder Horikita's plan involves Ayanokoji executing the strategy, since he evaluates that he is the only one to effectively conceal his presence and acts on such a level that would make this strategy have a high success rate against Nagumo, the most fit for dealing damage without detection.

Ultimately, 2 essential people are given to Ayanokoji to use as pawns for similar purposes but from different angles: Suzune Horikita and Kiriyama Ikuto:
Manabu recommends using Suzune Horikita as a means to gain information specifically about Nagumo's council and reach for any operation to sabotage it. Both of them set up Suzune by persuading her both directly and indirectly to eventually join the council, however Manabu directly states that above all, Suzune is joining for herself first and foremost. Manabu anticipated that Nagumo would have no issue with Suzune joining the student council despite her low status and the chances of her being a spy.
Kiriyama's role is related mostly to Nagumo's affairs into the 2nd year, Kiriyama on paper is the perfect candidate to use to overthrow Nagumo's early stage dictatorship by destroying Nagumo's Class Point dominance and restoring the class battle at least between 2A and 2B, that requiring a catch up of hundreds of points minimum however. If Nagumo falls, Kiriyama rises.
His role in providing information plays a vital role in keeping tabs on Nagumo's future goals plus anticipating and countering his actions. And his double agent of the student council makes him very useful for Ayanokoji.
By the time the preparations were about to start, Kiriyama was a strong loyalist for Manabu's cause due to his ideology alignment and his motivation to surpass Nagumo.
This allows Manabu Horikita to easily lure and explain Kiriyama's own version of his plan against Ayanokoji, it being with one key difference, Kiriyama is made to think that he will be in charge of he operation and Ayanokoji is just an awarded resource for him to use in the first year against Nagumo, but what happens is that Ayanokoji ends up capitalizing off Kiriyama's position, information and resources every time he makes a move against Nagumo such as Y1V9. Manabu understands the difference in level and mentality between Ayano and Kiriyama and how Ayanokoji will very easily handle him, so him planning this massive positional advantage against Nagumo for Ayanokoji went exactly as he wanted it to go.
(Indirect Manipulation, Persuasion, EU, Planning)

From his set up from the start, Manabu reasoned that if Ayanokoji doesn't take any countermeasure to protect Kiriyama from Nagumo, he will just end up a puppet of his. He predicted this in advance, as it happened 6 months after this event, and only 1 month after he left the school.
Ayanokoji implies this in Y2V2 after hearing from Kiriyama himself his reasoning for shifting to Nagumo.
He himself could only protect him as long as he is in school so he says.

(Prediction)

During his remaining time in the school
Manabu will support Ayanokoji behind the scenes through manipulating information in any way when it is necessary. Everything else will be left to be executed by Kiyotaka.
Ayanokoji ends up accepting partnership with Manabu against Nagumo, as compensation Horikita Manabu acts as a witness to the rooftop events in coverage for Ayanokoji.
The objective is to get Nagumo's foundation annihilated in any way, from him being dethroned in his year, to being removed from the SCP seat or even expelled. Beyond its layers however, Horikita sees this as an ideological battle to clear the mind of the majority of the students.
From then on, Manabu moves in cooperation with Ayano, like when they successfully indirectly work together to persuade Suzune into joining the council for her own sake.
(Planning)

(Y1V7.5) - Manabu Horikita is able to understand Ayanokoji's thought process to a large extent directly, almost as if reading him, but not quite in the way in which Nagumo or Tsukishiro applied it. This is different from a time where Ayanokoji lets people read his expressions and thoughts however, which makes it all the more impressive.
In complete parallel, Ayanokoji mentions multiple times how Manabu is a person he can't casually see through, not only because of the fact that he is hard to read, but because of the abstractions and ways he presents information to him.
(EP, EM)

(Y1V7.5) - It was on Christmas Eve when Manabu made his later appearance at the meeting of Ayanokoji and Ryueen which initially started at 7:00 AM. Upon making it, he analyzes the chosen location's in advance to be cautious for privacy and deduces that Ayanokoji has chosen the location due to any person coming only from 2 directions being easy to spot and then disperse fast.
The elder Horikita had also abducted Ayanokoji letting Ryueen understand his involvement in the Anti Nagumo campaign in addition to noticing Ayanokoji was covered in snow this early in the morning that Ryueen isn't focused in any way in the class battle, so he is not an enemy.
He also had the hypothesis that Ayanokoji spared Ryueen's life in ANHS in order to make him an ally.

(Abductive Reasoning, Observation, EU)

(Y1V7.5) - Manabu has kinesthetic prediction, when Ryueen attacked him and obstructed his vision, he completely defended against the attack with no difficulty by predicting the direct strike with perfect timing.
(Prediction)

(Y1V8) - The Mixed Training Exam is the only time Manabu and Nagumo face each other directly even if they cannot compete individually against one another. This is the beginning of a big hardship for Manabu Horikita.
As in every outdoor cross-year exam which requires more resources and organization, it is most likely to come with higher stakes meaning risk of expulsion. Due to their often clashing Manabu Horikita predicted that if Nagumo meets any opportunity of crushing Manabu with such an exam, it will be in his interest to make the most out of it. This is why even in the case of MTC being focused on meditation and cooperation, and where the rules of expulsion seemingly hurt both parties to the extent where it is not worth losing so much for so little, Manabu remained vigilant against Nagumo for the sake of his peers.
(Prediction, EU)

(Y1V8) - Even before taking the busses to the destination, Manabu Horikita had realized some slight abnormality in the schedule of the training camp:
The typical outdoor expedition exam was held in the summer in the previous year, however this camp is held in January. In normal circumstances there would be no reason to change the schedule of the exam earlier. So unless the school had intervened with it, there is a likely possibility that Nagumo was the one responsible for changing the schedule of the exam so early. Manabu was able to pick up on this slight change of schedule to immediately be worried that Nagumo might have tampered with the exam.
(Inductive Reasoning)

(Y1V8) - As the rules of MTC were explained in motion to the destination, Manabu has a single opportunity to organize his class as fast as possible and order his classmates to not take any group leader positions, as the possibility of a planned sabotage dragging down the group leader to expulsion exists.
Manabu had to establish his parameters clearly and instruct his classmates how

to act in accordance with his strategy in order to keep themselves safe.
Avoiding danger entirely was impossible, as in the MTC rules state that a year group must be composed at least by two classes, and the more class diverse the group is the better the reward. Manabu soon calculated and perceived that the group formations by their nature will leave a good chunk of 3rd Year class A students outside majority groups and therefore in class composites, meaning that no matter what he does Class A students cannot be fully covered through any formation.
(Deductive Reasoning, Prediction)

Due to this disadvantage, Horikita had asked for his classmates' cooperation in the sense of reporting to him about anything happening, that is an automatic first layer of protection.
From then on, Manabu envisions that in the case of a sabotage, he would have to change his objective from winning the exam to finding a way of getting that person out of their position. Based on the inference he made earlier about a loophole to avoid sabotage, he can do that by eliminating a person out of the exam early via a serious injury which cripples their performance. That cancels their participation as a whole and they can't be named for expulsion. For that however he needs to get the person's consent, and more importantly, constant information about their condition.
Despite his idealistic and utilitarian stance, Manabu allows himself to do what is necessary in order to preserve the greater good, even when he has to commit acts such as violence. Manabu would have gotten the person out of the trap through the loophole as they have their consent, which would destroy any sort of planned attack he would face in this manner. That ended up not being possible.
(Strategy, Reasoning)

(Y1V8) - Manabu grasped the purpose of the Mixed Training Camp as that meant to test the strength of the group's unity as opposed to exploiting one's weaknesses, understanding the nature of the given tasks as unfamiliar situations humans need to go through and adapt together in an organized manner. It is what the school administration envisioned since Manabu believes doing otherwise completely defeats the purpose of the exam as a whole.
What Manabu perceived was entirely true for the activity of a group prioritizing the tasks, for example Ayanokoji's group needed to work together well to probably survive and avoid expulsion in the exam in spite of the rare situation of all six students from different classes who were used to resenting one another

sharing for same room for 8 days and dealing with different personalities by learning how to adapt to those differences.
(EU, Perception)

(Y1V8) - With his approach in mind, all Manabu had to deal with additionally is to keep the threat of Nagumo at bay. Horikita was additionally relieved of Nagumo's possibility of tampering with the training camp as a means of sabotage, seeing Nagumo had put himself in a situation of randomness where getting the wrong teammates was entirely possible both in terms of offense but also defense in case of planning something in advance, especially with a theoretical possibility of they ending in the same group together. This is a very nonoptimal approach in case of a planned attack, and very prone to risk, something which made Manabu Horikita conclude that ultimately the new president couldn't have planned anything in regards to the camp in that given context.
(Deductive Reasoning)

During the group formation, after Nagumo's skepticism of the exam was tamed, Manabu was then approached by him with the preposition of a competition in this exam. Given the circumstances of the exam in its beginning, Nagumo coming out with a proposal for a match is the best thing which could happen to Manabu since it would give him the possibility to establish terms to be respected. Nagumo is a man known to keep his promises, he has always done so. In their discussion, Nagumo was open about his various possibilities to sabotage Manabu and aim for expulsion within the male groups of third year Class A and Manabu's own one, which Manabu could only perceive as him bluffing out tactics he would not consider doing anymore for the sake of appeasement of the deal, even if he was telling the truth about him considering them prior. From his discarded options being listed out in the front like that, it's all the more plausible for the match to take place within the listed out conditions. Manabu Horikita made Nagumo promise that he will focus on their exam competition and he won't try to sabotage any group Manabu or one of his classmates is part of. Manabu however, doesn't discard the possibility that Nagumo couldn't have just lied, despite him being a man of his word, his morals and hostility are concerning. Manabu remained vigilant and didn't trust Nagumo, instead maintaining his course on what he planned to do initially.
(Negotiation, EP, Intuition)

(Y1V8) - For the beginning part of the exam, Manabu focuses on winning the competition while keeping an eye at what Nagumo is doing from his

performance, to group activity and coordination. He eventually notices a stagnation in Nagumo's group halfway through the exam, something which normally shouldn't have happened considering Nagumo's seeming willpower for competition. From that perspective there's a chance Nagumo is looking to sabotage. Manabu begins investigating by first ensuring the protection of other groups his class takes part in and trying to ask for any abnormalities.
(Information Gathering, Observation)

(Y1V8) - Up until this point in time, Manabu had no way to detect anything Nagumo had been doing in MTC except for some abnormal stagnation which was enough to alert him but in the long run could be excused entirely, as nothing seemed to connect to it. His last attempt to get something was when he called Ayanokoji who was his only reliable source of information within Nagumo's larger group outside the 2nd year.
In order to keep their partnership private in an exam without telecommunication, Manabu had arranged a meeting between himself and Ayanokoji at 1:00 in the morning. He did this by implanting a note beneath Ayanokoji's pillow with the number 25 written on it. The hidden message of the note was written as '25:00', in other words, if seen through it could be inferred as 1:00 AM meaning it was meant to tell Ayanokoji to stay awake up to that point while Manabu stays anonymous at the same time to have a secret meeting involving Nagumo. Because of Manabu's already high evaluation of Ayanokoji and taking into account his known accomplishments pre Y1V8, he predicted Ayanokoji will see through his message.
In order for Manabu to know which bed was Ayanokoji was him asking the likes of Ishikura and Tsunoda who are in the same large group as him.
During 1:00 AM, Manabu urges the awakened Ayanokoji to come out using Morse code through a light.
The use of morse code is a form of non-verbal communication that uses a series of dots and dashes to represent letters and numbers.
He did this with Ayanokoji from the hallway door to his bed and because of the selected time light could be seen more vividly in order to signal Ayanokoji out without disturbing his group at all for a meeting due to the hallway being extremely dark.
(Tactics, Information Gathering, Concealment, Prediction)

(Y1V8) - The reason why Manabu made this meeting with Ayanokoji was purely to see any correlation between Nagumo's group stagnation and his activities, as taking into consideration Nagumo's open declaration, him not going all out in

public is contradictory.
Manabu fully analyzed Nagumo's team despite his extremely limited capacity to do so, compared it to his group in all exam metrics and calculated his chances of winning. He concluded his team is more unified and had students of superior discipline, grades and physical ability due to a high concentration of Class A members within Manabu's group, by stats alone Manabu Horikita predicted that he would win the exam on paper around the middle of the exam. However this was extremely concerning considering his understanding of Nagumo and his mentality. Manabu knew something was not right with Nagumo's group and he couldn't confirm whether it was due to the group's major inferiority or Nagumo holding back purposefully.
Manabu risked confronting Ayanokoji to get as much information as possible. Due to Kiriyama's proximity to Nagumo in the exam, asking something out of him was impossible, so Ayanokoji was the closest Ayanokoji could get to Nagumo's core.
Elder Horikita asked him directly if he ever saw something suspicious, however, Kiyotaka was forced to lie due to the position Nagumo set which would expose his abilities and relationship with Manabu fully due to Manabu's own retaliation afterwards. With his only reliable source he had in MTC straight up lying in his face in order to avoid a trap, Elder Horikita was left totally in the dark until the ending days of MTC, being blocked and sabotaged from all sides he could try to pry open to get out of the rabbithole. This prevented Manabu from adapting to his predicament and applying the strategy he could have countered Nagumo with, however he couldn't have even known until the end that had Ayanokoji ever alerted him and then him trying to search for the method Nagumo is trying to target him, there were 2 extra layers he couldn't get past due to his own limitations.
(Observation, Castling, Perception, Inductive Reasoning)

(Y1V8) - Manabu also attempted to lower the risk further by being self-aware and intentionally avoiding interactions with girls in fear Nagumo would target them in a way Manabu couldn't do anything due to the gender restrictions of the MTC exam, if he DID inspect Nagumo would do something underhanded (which he did), Manabu would be completely unable to strike against him first because not only would it defeat the defensive strategy but it would go against Manabu's morals and beliefs as well which were taken into account by Nagumo himself. Manabu is aware and deduced of all these flaws beforehand and because of that, he focused on observing the stages of MTC in which striked any strange activity

regarding Nagumo and would try to rely on the amount of Info Gathering he has possible to dig into Nagumo's true intentions.
If Manabu gathers info which exposes Nagumo's lies, Manabu would then immediately adapt his former strategy in a more offensive orientation to fight back against Nagumo.

(Y1V8) - At the end of the MTC, despite his group being announced as winning the exam and Manabu winning the "competition" against Nagumo.
In the girls' bracket, Manabu had confirmation of Tachibana's expulsion planned by Nagumo from the start; winning their promised competition but on the verge of losing one of his most allies in the process.
Manabu improvised from the initial prediction that a lot of students would be expelled before even Nagumo became SCP, and saved enough points from the collection of his own class to save Tachibana from expulsion while retaining his idealism and pride as leader. Though doing this forced his entire class to go bankrupt making them vulnerable towards the opposing Class B in their future special exam.
Reminder, while Manabu was outsmarted by Nagumo he didn't 'lose' against him nor did he 'win' with both the respective students acknowledging that.
The limitations and prep set by Nagumo against Manabu were genuinely a lot severe than MTC shows:
Manabu's info gathering was so sparse during the exam that he had no basis to distill even the first layer of Nagumo's strategy during the initial phases of MTC, he was put in that much of a disadvantage by Nagumo.
Resource wise Kiriyama was useless during the entire exam for both info gathering and investigating Nagumo due to how the latter designed MTC.
Tachibana deduced Nagumo's intents with her expulsion, part of his strategy and the ending of MTC but she was determined to ensure her class won't be ruined and therefore she wouldn't become a burden to Manabu and the others for her own skin, causing her to not tell him about her predicament as a hope she wouldn't become the main cause for their possible eventual demotion, her entire line of reasoning was all foreseen and used by Nagumo, even to deceive Manabu that because the girls haven't detected or said anything regarding any event happening on their part of the exam (when they had the possibility to, which is only during lunch break)
Manabu's resources and clues all lead to dead ends.
(Improvising, Limitations)

(Y1V8) - After Manabu just learned of his loss to Nagumo, he shows no signs of anger despite his long time accomplice Nagumo betraying him in addition to mocking, laughing and taunting over the expulsion of Manabu's secretary Tachibana in front of the entire school years.
(EM)

(Y1V8) - In time of crisis when the entire Class A was shattered by the loss of a classmate in a tragic way they couldn't help with, Manabu used his willpower and absolute confidence in his abilities as an individual in order to motivate every member of his class back into their feet and make them approve of them spending an insane additional 300 Class points and 20 million private points in order to save Tachibana, pushing himself to bankruptcy in the final reach of his ANHS life and setting out an almost impossible to survive scenario for himself and his Class A status. Even when every class member of his was aware of it, due to Manabu's own confidence and him promising that even in the case of them losing the status of A, they will never give up until they have it back.
For the sake of keeping his status as protector of his classmates, Manabu was willing to fight for everything he has achieved in these 3 years.
(EE, EM)

(Y1V9) - Manabu calls Ayanokoji's phone number to warn him about Suzune and Ayanokoji himself being potentially in danger. From Kiriyama, Manabu got information Kushida met up with Nagumo in the student council to ask in expelling Suzune and also mentioned Ayanokoji to be trouble as well, Manabu gives all that information to Ayanokoji on the phone.

However, while relaying this to Ayanokoji, because of the sudden silence after mentioning Kiriyama, Manabu saw through the fact that Ayanokoji couldn't trust someone like Kiriyama.
(Information Gathering, EQP, Overall Reasoning)

(Y1V10) - Manabu along with Nagumo both by coincidence walked into Ayanokoji alone near the hallways of the first-year classroom. Not long afterwards Suzune is shown to appear from a comfortable distance between herself and the others. Because they all gathered in the exact same spot with the location being the first year class floors, Manabu saw through and reasoned that Nagumo was the one

who personally contacted Suzune and arranged a meeting for her to get both the Horikita siblings together.
Furthermore, using this Manabu was also able to get Nagumo's aim which was to evaluate his sister Suzune, not with the intent of seemingly wanting to meet up together with the Horikita siblings which Nagumo tries to create. To evaluate her, Manabu had further predicted he would try and gaslight his sister in order to prompt a reaction out of him and to exploit any shown subtle weakness to use for the third year's upcoming final exam.
After Suzune gets gaslighted by Nagumo and rushes into her classroom (now being aware of the bad Horikita relationship), Manabu from inferring Nagumo's aim prior to him doing it remains calm and keeps his poker face in order to minimize the damage done by Suzune. Nagumo further tries to use the fleeing of the younger Horikita this in attempt to gaslight Manabu by stating he'd try to cherish his limited time in the school with Suzune in Manabu's shoes and by also casually bringing up the possibility of him getting demoted to Class B to find any spots he can to put pressure on him with those attempts failing.
Manabu simply left the conservation, succeeding in concealing any forms of his weakness for Nagumo to exploit.
(Sensory, Prediction, Abductive Reasoning, Emotional Management, Fast Thinking)

(Y1V10) - At this point in time, through his psychoanalysis, Suzune's behavior in regards to him as well as her active development were things he was very perceiving of. Manabu is able to project his sister in multiple scenarios, anticipating and understanding her line of reasoning. One example was prior to Ayanokoji contacting Manabu: Despite Suzune's critical situation during Class Poll when she was forced to seek help from people such as Ryuuen which got her nowhere anyway. Manabu reasoned that despite all this pressure, she would never approach him for guidance by herself without getting an indirect push or Manabu approaching her himself. This is important in the strategy Manabu implements as a follow up.

Manabu's Class Poll Strategy

(Y1V10) - In order to counter the Mastermind's censure point attack on himself during Class Poll, Ayanokoji relied on Manabu to execute a plan to counter the attack through indirectly using Suzune by getting her into a position she can infer and counter the masterminds behind the censure votes against Ayanokoji.

Upon hearing the proposal and plan, Manabu reasoned that:
- Due to the way it was structured, Ayanokoji would have planned his strategy in this form regardless if he got targetted or not.
- The reason for Ayanokoji not explaining the plan to him in their previous meeting on the same day was because Tachibana, who was the initiator, had been present at that time. Despite Ayanokoji viewing Tachibana as being trustworthy not to carelessly speak openly about classified information, just in case he held it until an actual one to one with Manabu.
Even more so, Ayanokoji had foreseen that Manabu would be able to immediately think of the ideal approach without extra guidance when it comes to the formulation, which they both shared in common, but didn't communicate to each other.
To implement the plan, Ayanokoji later confirms Yamauchi being the puppet and Arisu being the real mastermind in expelling him from the help of Kushida in which he later submits the information to Manabu in which the rest is all up to him to execute the strategy.
(Abductive Reasoning)

The Formulation:

Manabu had to contact Suzune for them to meet each other, BUT in order for him to do his part effectively without blunder, he had to meet up with her and relay the information from Ayanokoji in a way that he tails her away from discovering Ayanokoji's involvement in his own evasion, which would mean she was used. Manabu also keeps up his act, refusing to warm up to his sister in order to keep himself at a distance.
In order to do this, Manabu used a phone tactic in texting her during the evening while choosing his words carefully without showing direct warmth to her by being the one to initiate communication with her. While doing so anticipating her entire thought process and her replies from Manabu.
Manabu anticipated Suzune would respond in the lines of her wanting to speak with him after Manabu had given the first initiation.
Manabu's thought process in doing so was centered around the fact that ever since Suzune has enrolled in Advanced Nurturing High School, he's maintained a firm and distant connection with his sister and never gave her any opportunities for us to correspond with each other.
Throughout the series, Suzune (from her POV) had been the only sibling reaching out for them to speak with each other early on in which Manabu acted to shun her completely. In other words, she hasn't been able to express her true

overall development to him ever since then. That's why he knows Suzune will respond in the lines of wanting to speak to him in person due to her excessive need of wanting to be properly evaluated and acknowledged by Manabu.
Not only that, but Manabu doesn't have long until he finally graduates and leaves the school altogether while currently preparing for his last and final special exam. Suzune is aware of this too, that's why in her POV this is the perfect and only opportunity to actually talk with Manabu before his graduation ceremony.
By anticipating Suzune's text message, he later calls Suzune on the phone where she naturally picks up the phone and Manabu coldly asks, *"You said you wanted to talk?"*
Manabu does this to create a situation where it would pressure Suzune to create the meeting herself instead of Manabu doing it directly while maintaining his cold front towards Suzune. She even responds back to Manabu as to why he messaged her in the first place in which Manabu switches goalposts and pressures her into forcing Suzune to propose a talk in person to not only relay information Manabu was given by Ayanokoji but for a strategy Manabu came up with in addition for his own personal reasons which will be led onto later.
But Manabu personally calling the meeting directly and later giving Suzune info on the mastermind would only arouse suspicion on Suzune and would increase the likelihood of her deducing Ayanokoji was working with him earlier on as that kind of behavior for Manabu is abnormal and him relaying information related to her year group afterwards would be two red flags in that situation.
By doing so he successfully uses Suzune as a way to make the meeting between the two happen while maintaining his usual cold deception hiding his true feelings to Suzune in also purposely to misdirecting her away from his true purpose to "agree" to meet up.
However, the flaw with this formulation comes with the price that if they're seen speaking or even in close proximity with each other, it will only raise suspicions in general and from potential third parties from Arisu's Class A, Suzune's Class C or from Arisu/Yamauchi in general especially from the possibility of them overhearing the third-year leaking out the names of their classmates to the likes of Suzune which also conceals Manabu from being involved from the Class Poll.
Manabu reduced the risk by adding coverage from making sure they both agreed to meet up in the special building in the afternoon to avoid being seen by the public as it's crucial for Manabu to reduce chances of potential third parties and just in general to protect his distant image he made against Suzune from other year groups. It's also the area where no surveillance cameras are available so once they entered the building no other third parties would have any sort of idea where the source of the mastermind was leaked.

The reason why it would also be beneficial from Suzune's perspective to agree to the terms of meeting in the special building is because being in a remote location would reduce her anxiety of having stares as she struggles and mumbles every time she's in her brother presence which is why Manabu knew she would have no problems accepting the terms to meet.
Not only that but the meeting was set specifically at the afternoon where lunchtime happened, confirmed by both Suzune and Ayanokoji.
Why is this a great decision on Manabu's part? Because it'll drastically reduce the amount of students and potential third parties being near or seeing him go inside the special building even if the initial percentage was small to begin with as the mass majority will be too focused eating and ordering food in the canteen. It's vital to eliminate all chances of nearby people as a person seeing the conversation between siblings can potentially break the strategy's execution all together.
Manabu was given the planning details from Ayanokoji in the evening and formulated the plan of his own to meet up with her personally to execute the strategy around the same time to complete both his personal plan and Ayanokoji's plan in a far more efficient manner.
However, this plan could only be accomplished via Manabu's own choice as even Ayanokoji states it. In other words, if Suzune somehow failed to make Manabu impressed with her development, he'd simply dismiss her immediately along with Ayanokoji's plan in which he admits would affect how he'd deal with the exam.
(Planning, Tactics, EU, Deception, Indirect Manipulation, Logical Manipulation, Anticipation, Deductive Reasoning)

The Strategy:

Manabu meets up with his sister Suzune in the special building, however Manabu in particular arrived at the special room way earlier than Suzune did. The reason was to completely reduce the chances of getting seen with Suzune as low as possible to reduce potentially being seen near together or walking in the same direction to eliminate suspicion especially considering their distant relationship being relatively public.
While at the same time, Manabu used this as an opportunity to dig deep into how developed Suzune is compared to the beginning when she enrolled wanted to make sure that Suzune didn't make the same mistakes he did.

This was all to confirm three things from her all related to Manabu's three mistakes he reflected way back in his Volume 8 monologue:

- Him not having any sort of ambition at all
- Him being detached and laser focused on completing tasks
- Him never trying to make a friend at all he could truly trust in

The admit and awareness of all these flaws as well especially considering Manabu's prestigious reputation shows amazing overall metacognition.
These were all three flaws Manabu himself is aware of and because his younger sister Suzune strived to be just like him it was a very logical and abstract method to confirm Suzune's growth from breaking from the flaws he himself couldn't.
(Castling, Metacognition)

(Y1V10) - Manabu had evaluated Suzune's change from giving her three tests to answer:
Manabu's first test links to Manabu's mistake of not having a particular ambition where he brings up Suzune having a possibility of asking him about transferring private points to her.
Manabu was able to set the requirement for him to give Suzune the statement by anticipating the answers of both the "old" and "new" Suzune. During the process, Manabu tests Suzune using double layers on the first test effectively.
Manabu's thought process on how he set up the statement in the first place using the first layer to test Suzune's priorities on forcing her to reveal the two valid reasons for "calling him out" to meet with each other.
The two reasons would be in regards to the supplementary exam as it will result in a great change among the first years in which was happening tomorrow or the need in wanting to try and restore friendly relations with Manabu as siblings; the former being the thought process of the "new" and the latter being the "old".

If she chooses the latter then Manabu would end this conversation and simply walk out as his sister would still be the same unmatured sibling worrying about our relationship till the very end even in the situation where she has an exam tomorrow that would change her class forever.
If she chooses the former however, then she's shown a subtle change and Manabu would proceed in executing my plan along with Ayanokoji's plan in testing her using the second layer of the first test.

————————————————————

After Suzune completed the first layer, Manabu proceeded to the second and most important layer in which he used the main statement to test Suzune which was carefully chosen by Manabu as he already knew of that situation in particular from observation of first years approaching third years early on after the Class Poll exam was announced.
So in other words it's a perfectly logical inference to assume and test Suzune if she's matured or not using that abductive reasoning and had a perfect logical inference to deny the hypothetical question as his class was bankrupt from Nagumo after the Mixed Training Camp which is exactly why he formulated this exact statement to test Suzune.
Keep in mind, using logical inference, the Class B students are the only first years asking help for private points. It couldn't have been Class A as Arisu already decided to "expelling" Katsuragi not long ago which fixes the issue for the other Class A students. Class C already planned on wanting Ryuen expelled and considering his tyrannical relationship the students felt completely confident he'd get the most censure votes even if they happened to get one or two of their own. Class D had a lot of polarizing issues to solve itself such as majority voting on Ayanokoji, Koenji, and even some towards Sudo etc while someone like Hirata planned to get himself expelled by insulting the girls via text message.
Which only leaves out Class B as they literally were the only students who saved up enough private points and only needed a few more to escape expulsion spearheaded by Ichinose. Manabu himself already knows that's the case due to him being familiar with all the first years and is aware of their idealism.

This tests Suzune in a way that Manabu completely judges her on the spot if her goal of reaching Class A is idealistic or realistic by giving her an invisible question whether or not she wants to take the "easy way" out or "hard way" as Ayanokoji informs Manabu of Suzune being forced to make tough choices.
Manabu upon testing Suzune on the secondary layer of the first test had gotten confirmation that Suzune's problems lie with the supplementary exam. Generally speaking, the only way a third year would support a first year in this specific exam is through the transfer of private points but in this exceptional case, since they're siblings it's not far fetched to abduct the "old Suzune" would likely resort to methods of bribery.
Though because Ayanokoji believed his sister was truly following a difficult path, using this second layer will be an ideal tactic to confirm a change or not.

Prior to all this, Suzune has been shown to be reliant on Manabu ever since the Paper Shuffle Exam and now this is her last chance to stop in this supplementary exam.
If Suzune has nothing to say from Manabu's denial of assisting via the private point root, then Ayanokoji's evaluation will be proven faulty and Manabu would walk out seeing his sister has not matured enough to develop actual ambition. Continuing to rely on him and not having an extra contingency will prove she's unfit to reach Class A especially considering what she would do next when she faces a similar exam next year when he's no longer there to assist.
If Suzune instead tried to rally her resolve by meeting up with Manabu however, then she would show a promising step into changing and complete the first test of mine as she would show she's realistic minded enough to be prepared to take the "hard way" in which will make her one step closer to Class A thus proving her ambition to be sound.

Manabu also did this to eliminate as much negative idealism in her as possible. Manabu himself is idealistic, and his main desire was to prevent Suzune from following the same selfless path as him in becoming a "role model" as he knows good and well that won't make her evolve to her own true potential especially from the burden and pressure of potentially failing to succeed her elder brother. At the same time, Manabu especially doesn't want Suzune to walk the extreme idealistic and shallow path of Class B as Manabu is aware it will lead to the ultimate downfall of Horikita Suzune. This is proven in Class B's depreciation throughout the LN.
Suzune showing Manabu her resolve, shows that she's leading a path for an ambition; something Manabu failed to have confirmed in his monologue.
(Strategy, EU, Tactics, Abductive Reasoning, Deductive Reasoning, Abstract Reasoning, Triangulation, Observation)

Manabu's second test revolved around asking about Suzune's opinion on the school which links to Manabu detaching himself and being just focused on his studies.
Before Manabu hears Suzune out, Manabu does this to measure her overall mental state after he successfully tests and discovers her strong resolve. Suzune replies by saying the school isn't "boring" despite her not having an actual solid on it. The keyword "boring" was enough for Manabu to abduct Suzune has evolved from what she originally was, completing the second test from Manabu in conquering one of her weaknesses.
How did he abduct Suzune's evolution from her using the term "boring"?

Manabu was aware that Suzune was always obsessed with getting high scores, thus detaching herself from everything else around her.
Suzune now paying attention to her overall surroundings and her not being bored shows that she's not JUST prioritizing one linear thing; something Manabu also failed to do which is mentioned.
Which made Manabu successfully abduct Suzune's growth. This alone is impressive abduction, through reflective thinking.
(Comprehension, Abductive Reasoning, Emotional Understanding)

Manabu's third and final test involved asking Suzune's opinion on Ayanokoji which links to Manabu's third mistake of him not making a friend he can fully trust.
Suzune, despite showing obvious annoyance and dislike towards Ayanokoji acknowledges that he's capable enough to be acknowledged by Manabu himself. Suzune had also mentioned wanting to surpass Ayanokoji though Manabu immediately replies on his that not being possible, despite this Manabu tells Suzune that she has someone like Ayanokoji she can use to broaden her horizons more and would help her evolve more even if at a slower pace which was also done to weed out unnecessary idealisms from Suzune.
Manabu had already acknowledged Ayanokoji to be a suitable and reliable friend for Suzune, but with Suzune herself at the very least acknowledged Ayanokoji's talents and existence in complete contrast to her dismissing him as a friend in Y1V1. This made Manabu see through the fact she had finally found what independence is as opposed to isolation in making a friend in which she regards highly.
Manabu successfully evaluated Suzune's evolution using all three of those factors before the meet-up started. This is definitely Manabu's most complex strategy on screen as it's related so deep into so many variables from his past, using high levels of Emotional Understanding on top of that as well.
(EQU, Perception, Abstract Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning)

The significant parts of Manabu's strategy is that it was formulated in a span from the exact same time period from when he was contracted by Ayanokoji in the evening to texting Suzune with exact wording which inevitably led to using Suzune to indirectly cast the meeting alone as soon as she was going to bed while using constant foresight against her during the strategy's execution.
The use of bringing his past mistakes noted on V8 as a way to measure if Suzune is following the unwanted path of Horikita Manabu himself or not increases his abstract thinking and also boosts his depth and writing as a character.

After completing his own primary strategy, Manabu then comes closer to Suzune and sees through the fact she's scared from not taking another step forward as well.
Manabu doesn't scold her for this though as he's aware of Suzune's inexperience and struggle she has to face in this exam but encourages her to take the step forward to undergo greater change
Manabu relays Suzune, the two masterminds behind the exam being Yamauchi and Arisu.
He does this by asking Suzune what she needs help with first but unfortunately how he did it effectively was off screened while at the same time keeping Suzune oblivious about Ayanokoji's involvement until the very end of the exam despite Suzune concluding his involvement at the end of the volume.
(Strategy, EI, Deception)

(Y1V11) - By coincidence, Manabu along with Tachibana had encountered Ayanokoji well after his special exam regarding the Event Selection. From just their sudden encounter, Manabu had already read Ayanokoji's current situation to a strong degree in tackling the exam despite never having an explanation in depth about it through his abductive process.
(Abductive Reasoning, EU)

(Y1V11) - Onwards Manabu shows firm management as despite Ayanokoji being aware of his dire pressure of him graduating to Class A, he's unable to see through and understand if Manabu was feeling worried or relaxed by just looking at his face.
Not only that but he also shows a levels of understanding of Ayanokoji's thought process to an extent as he referenced their first encounter related with Suzune; the exact thing Koji was thinking about right before Koji's thoughts were finished trying to narrow down Manabu's thought process of reasons for showing disappointment to Suzune.
(Emotional Management, Emotional Understanding)

(Y1V11) - Manabu is an incredibly influential individual to the point where he's able to change the behavioral tendencies of students he's nearby displaying that Manabu, somewhat similar to Ayanokoji, can either indirectly make students evolve for the better or can radiate a virtuous aura.

An example of this is when he influences even competent students like Tachibana to become more quick and cautious to react in certain situations back when both were on the student council.
Ryuen as well in Y1V7.5 so is normally seen as very informal and ill-mannered to even his peers, from a short term confrontation with Manabu after showing his combat prowess not only complimented but also called him by his honorifics (sarcastically so but referred him as “senpai”).
For a comparison, Ryuen had many quarries with Albert and Hosen both in which he had been overwhelmed physically, despite this he hadn’t shown as nearly as much respect to them as he did to Manabu in just one encounter.
This foreshadows a part of the reason why Manabu became Student Council President in only 8 months after enrolment.
(Aura, Charisma)

(Y1V10-V11.5) - During his final semester, Manabu needed to plan against Ishikura’s Class B along with the other two classes at once which were getting extra aid from Nagumo’s supply of private points.
The details of the final year exam are almost unknown on-screen, though it was stated by Manabu that the exam would be determined by how many private points his class possesses which is exactly why it’s inferred Manabu instructed his class not to give points to junior class students for their current Class Poll especially given his current bankruptcy.
Despite all the odds layered by Nagumo, Manabu found his way and led his class securing Class A despite Nagumo using the rest of his year group and the other classes from Manabu’s year against him + being weakened due to the V8 event of saving Tachibana.
It’s unfortunate that the battle between them was offscreen so the strategy used by Horikita Manabu is almost completely null, however we at least have a moderate level of understanding of how tough the battle was since Ayanokoji described Manabu as feeling a burden of “heavy, oppressive pressure” being lifted from his shoulders during his class' celebration
While this alone does not buff Manabu’s strategy, it does show Manabu always maintaining his EQM to the very end to where even the likes of Ayanokoji couldn’t pinpoint his exact feelings about the event during V11.
Even in the midst of victory, while having his final moments with his rival Nagumo Miyabi, Manabu admits the exam was so intense it could have gone either way while at the same time the main reason for Nagumo’s shortcoming was the misfortune of being in different year groups. In other words there was only so much Nagumo could have done to fully fabricate the exam.

Although it's true Nagumo could easily resort to using more violent methods to force a direct 1v1 between the two but chose not to in this case.
Manabu recognising this shows his metacognition and abstract thinking while at the same time the two student council presidents shake hands respecting their contrasting ideologies symbolizing the end of their ideological battle.
(Leadership, Emotional Management, Mental Fortitude, Metacognition, Abstract Thinking) (Planning, Strategy)

(Y1V11.5) - During Manabu's graduation ceremony, he states that he "clearly" remembers the first day he enrolled in ANHS. This not only reinforces Manabu's memory but also reflects on Manabu not only remembering just names.
In addition, during his speech, Manabu from Ayanokoji's perception had developed a change from a year ago which is shown when Manabu, while still maintaining his composed tone, uses his motivation of carrying the future as a way to emotionally entice himself since Manabu's ideology also relates to the students fortunate enough to attend to ANHS carry the future of Japan itself and even Ayanokoji could feel warmth from his ongoing speech.
Not only that but like Ayanokoji, Manabu can see through the change and growth of the students present with just a glance. And just like last year, not a single student present was speaking nor had any private conversations; showing high levels of aura and EM.
(Memory, EM, EE, Perception)

(Y1V11.5) - Before leaving the ANHS building, Manabu had met up with Ayanokoji for a meeting. Suzune had also been expected to join but didn't arrive exactly on time, still missing. Ayanokoji had tried to call Suzune but was stopped by Manabu in which he reasoned if she had the possibility of being sick or unwell she would contact them before the meeting due to Suzune's commitment of such a special day with her brother.
Meaning on the possibility she simply overslept instead, Manabu believed she wasn't worth his time which is why he stopped Ayanokoji from contacting her.
Onwards, Manabu shows his extensive levels of understanding relating to the nature of ANHS. Despite the school system being based on meritocracy, Manabu is aware it has certain elements for lower-ranked classes to be able to adapt for a chance for victory.
Manabu is also aware the school system has certain flaws as he's self-conscious him being Class A from the beginning gave him more of an advantage compared to the lower classes, but at the same time he's also aware majority of students as a whole haven't realized the true nature of certain aspects of ANHS which is true

since only a small number of students are aware of certain main nature of exams (examples being that of Ryuen, Arisu, Koenji etc). Certain students seeing through those aspects would already give a lower class a chance to defeat a higher class.
Not just in written exams. Manabu is also aware the same logic applies to that of special exams such as the island exam and year-end final exam. This statement also implies that Manabu has understood the true nature of EVERY single type of special exam he's done without fail. Even back in V8, he understood the true nature of the Mixed Training Camp Exam. He did this by taking into account all the factors such as luck, teamwork etc.
This statement scales Manabu's Perception very high as well implying adaptability high enough to adjust to multiple key scenarios necessary for victory in which he logically interprets the hidden goal of each respective exam. Though it's because the majority of these Special Exams are classified as unknown, Manabu's Perception in this case would be taken mainly from an inverse narrative standpoint. It also shows a display of Manabu's Perception and EQU as well as he saw through the fact that only a few have noticed these certain factors and is aware higher classes struggle to accept a system that gives the inferior classes factors such as luck to decide victory and would outright criticize it.
(Abductive Reasoning, Abstract Reasoning, EU) (Adaptability, Perception)

(Y1V11.5) - Despite Manabu withdrawing from the student council entirely 5 months ago, that would also include data and overall classified information about the school, he was able to immediately recall the exact number of class points each class has in Nagumo's year after Ayanokoji asking the gap of the class points:

* Class A - 1491 points
* Class B - 889 points
* Class C - 280 points
* Class D - 76 points

Keep in mind the number of class points have undoubtedly changed considering Nagumo's year had the Mixed Training Camp Exam and another offscreen exam and he was still able to calculate the current number of points for each class. This shows more of his memory applications and strengthens the fact Manabu doesn't just remember names and faces in addition to showing consistent info gathering and observation.

(Memory, Data Analysis, Info Gathering, Observation)

(Y1V11.5) - Manabu anticipated Nagumo's strategic aim related to the lower classes in his year through a process of him using the private points of the individual students from Class B and D to gamble on who moves up to Class A. He deduced this due to the fact he's aware of the fact even the combined number of class points doesn't pass that of Nagumo's Class A. Manabu is obviously aware of Nagumo's ideology and his motivation to create a "true" meritocracy. He knows the majority of the lower classes have already lost hope of moving up to Class A (especially Class D with only 76 points) which is why planning a gambling related strategy would not only motivate lower ranked students to participate as a last ditch effort to Class A but would reinforce Nagumo's ideology at the same time as it would determine the capable students among each class.
Manabu is aware of the thought process of a mass population when driven into a corner while being given a ray of hope and understands how someone like Nagumo would manipulate them which strengthens the quality of the anticipation.
To strengthen this anticipation even further, Manabu is also aware that this plan of Nagumo would greatly involve Class A due to the fact Nagumo intends to cause chaos among the lower classes into reaching the top.
Because of this, Manabu anticipated Nagumo having no qualms in risking his own comrades from potential expulsion especially since Manabu is now aware of Nagumo's thought process of using terms such as "comrade" and "trust" as a tool in order to increase his own worth.
And Manabu's anticipation was proven to be true in Y2V9 as Suchi Moeka from Nagumo's class got expelled due to his malice.
This is a well connected anticipation feat from Manabu and displays just how high the level of his emotional intelligence and logical reasoning really is especially compared to his verse.
(Anticipation, Deductive Reasoning, Abstract Reasoning, Emotional Understanding, Perception)

(Y1V11.5) - Manabu deduced Nagumo's thought process for originally joining the student council in the first place through an inductive process. Manabu also understands Nagumo's thought process of him feeling bored due to his victory already being guaranteed and only wanting to kill time to relieve him of his boredom. Especially onwards the future where Manabu himself would no longer

be present where he'd have "no one" else present that would rival Nagumo in ability for an enjoyable battle.
This displays good Inductive and EQU especially considering Nagumo is one of the more difficult students to understand to an extent.
(Emotional Understanding, Inductive Reasoning, Logical Reasoning, Cold Reading)

(Y1V11.5) - Manabu intuitively determined that Ayanokoji has no direct weakness, firmly believing that he doesn't have the ability to find any. Manabu thinks he can't handle Ayanokoji in brute force despite only exchanging blows with each other very briefly in addition to being a far inferior strategist despite not seeing the full extent of his strategic abilities.
Manabu even goes as far as to admit Ayanokoji is the last person he'd want to fight. He deduced all of that by what he could sense. This also shows high levels of metacognition as Manabu is aware of his boundaries and knows that he's in general inferior to Ayanokoji in a direct battle.
However despite his Manabu still acknowledging even against someone seen as perfect, he's still aware there's always a chance to win showing great levels of overall resolve and mental fortitude while standing true to his ideology.
Furthermore, Manabu even goes as far as to question Ayanokoji's origin as he knows he wasn't raised in an ordinary environment from sensing his combat and strategic abilities both in which he abducted couldn't have been produced if Ayanokoji's family gave him a tutor.
(Metacognition, Intuition, Sensory, Mental Fortitude, Abductive Reasoning)

(Y1V11.5) - Manabu remembers the exact total number of dropouts by the time he reached graduation being 24; 13 of those students in his own third year.
He's also aware and observed Ayanokoji's year has only had 3 dropouts in total so far despite not being a part of the student council + not being a first year showing impressive observation of the school overall.
(Memory, Data Analysis)

(V11.5-Y2V10) - While on the verge of departing, Suzune had finally made it to the meeting in which her hair was cut short, which made Manabu evaluate the fact Suzune's her reversion to her old self — or more so transformation into a blooming version of herself had been finalized.
Since Suzune Horikita wasn't really fond of long hair when she was little, she didn't dislike it but she preferred to keep it short. Manabu prior to enrolling in ANHS he lied to Suzune in saying he preferred long hair to suit Manabu's

preference as in that period Suzune had the unhealthy habit of copying Manabu's needs down to his favorite food and clothing. He had done this in the prediction of Suzune following him in his footsteps toward ANHS as well in which they'd reunite together while Suzune grows her hair, it's because Manabu the moment he first laid eyes on Suzune after her enrolment he saw through the fact that she hadn't let go her complex in trying to catch up to him through her long hair.
That's why cutting her hair EXACTLY before Manabu leaves Suzune again somewhere where he can not watch over her ASSURES him that Suzune Horikita has let go of her constraints of catching up to her brother and being a model like him. Instead of focusing on being like Manabu Horikita, she is now looking into developing as Horikita Suzune.
This is also linked to Suzune's Potential. For clarification, when Manabu quantified her potential high enough to surpass even himself, he was referring to her potential as an individual in terms of achievement.
He had believed Suzune to be an unpolished gem that is able to influence other people in a positive manner as a leader, a true leader, as an "established" individual when she's polished.
Because unlike the elder brother, Suzune didn't make the same mistake which would be left as permanent and irreversible related to Manabu's Y1V8 monologue. It's not the fact that using forms of manipulation and deception makes one less or a leader or let alone human, but the capacity to be a steadfast leader who's open to oneself and one's horizons in addition of having the ability to engage in empathy, communication and more; that's what Manabu wanted to forge Suzune to be to succeed in what he couldn't.
Manabu had trusted Ayanokoji in mentoring and observing the true Suzune's development and awakening until the end, which before his departure had taught Ayanokoji the meaning of 'empathy'.
By sharing on what empathy is, he shares the idea Ayanokoji himself had never thought of before by leaving a mark on the school to have a good impact during his time spent.
Ayanokoji however initially dismisses the idea. Though Manabu adds on the fact without rushing Ayanokoji that if he couldn't mark the school itself, he could leave a mark on the students in order to "inscribe" his existence into one's mind; Manabu teaching this new perspective to an individual like Ayanokoji in a slow paced manner already shows great levels of social understanding.
To further go in depth of Manabu's mentoring, Ayanokoji had mentioned what he'd do with such a perspective if were to possibly get expelled. Manabu answered even if he manages to get expelled, before that happens making even

one student in the school glad of the existence of Ayanokoji Kiyotaka when that said student looks back on their three years spent at school is an accomplishment to be proud of which links into the mentoring of empathy.
These reasoning from Manabu caused Ayanokoji to reevaluate and think about his initial intentions of a quiet life entirely and even the keywords of Manabu despite acting slowly were described to burrow through Ayanokoji's heart surely.
Ayanokoji still intends to live a quiet life while at the same time changing his mind and will consider leaving something behind after his graduation.
At the same time because of this talk with Manabu, even someone of the likes of Ayanokoji was questioning that living a normal and quiet life wasn't the answer and took into account coming to the school itself has a meaning all together; Manabu always kept in mind which shows displays of perception.
Manabu from V1-Y2V9 is the **only** character to show enough emotional understanding and social intelligence to Ayanokoji directly to bring a subtle but significant change in his state of thinking.
Ayanokoji even in Y2V10 had acknowledged Manabu to be his "professor" and without his teachings, also acknowledged he would probably never notice Suzune's potential for himself for him to finish almost 100% of his analysis of her entirely.
Ayanokoji was inspired and moved by Manabu's words to the point where he almost verbally confessed he would feel lonely once he'd leave. Of course Ayanokoji forced himself to stop saying the exact words but the fact he thought of those words in his head shows how much of an impact Manabu's words gave Ayanokoji and to an extent his ideology as well.
After Manabu had finished sharing his advice of empathy, Ayanokoji had the thought in mind to admit to feeling lonely once Manabu leaves the school in which he stops himself from saying.
Despite this, while not seeing through Ayanokoji's words, Manabu did see through the atmosphere in what he was feeling as he's aware both him and Ayanokoji showed sides of themselves they'd normally won't ever share and overall is very abnormal of them.
(Abstract Reasoning, Sensory, Foresight, EU, EP)

(Y1V11.5) - Manabu is directly stated to be more impressive in terms of the specific results than any student who participated in the Flash Mental Arithmetic part of the ESE.

While the Elite of Ayano's year is much closer than expected to Manabu and Nagumo's level, the 2 SCPs are still in a league higher than them in ALL possible categorizations, with very few coming close in only some specific abilities.

Despite the first years being a better year on average than the other 2, both Manabu and Nagumo are so far in terms of what they had proven to be capable of that they defined their entire generation of students individually, standing above all the ANHS in both mental and physical.

The ones directly making these affirmations are the homeroom teachers Chabashira and Mashima, Ayano's and Arisu's Class, who, in a private conversation, after just learning that Tsukishiro sabotaged Ayanokoji's performance. They compare their students to the SCPs directly in reflection of the Event Selection exam and their performances there, specifically Chess and FMA. There's 2 things to note here:

Homeroom teachers are the same people who make the Student Evaluation boards for their respective class students in Year 1, such as obviously evaluating grades, mental abilities, and specific observation notes. They are the only qualified people to make a valuable comparison of Arisu or Kiyotaka.

Mashima and Chabashira both weren't the instructors taking part as personnel in the Class C vs A matchup but they saw the results of the ESE and the process of the Chess Match. Meaning that of course they can compare Nagumo and Manabu to Kiyotaka's and Arisu's shown abilities.

Mashima and Chabashira go on to say that the first years ended up being closer than expected to Manabu and Nagumo's level, but the 2 student council presidents were still in a league higher than them in ability, both Manabu and Nagumo had defined an entire generation of students individually.

These next statements basically prove that Nagumo and Manabu are above the assessed result of Koenji and Arisu in the Flash Arithmetic.

"*I saw the results of Ayanokouji's performance in the Event Selection Exam the other day. There's no doubt that he is quite good when it comes to his chess skills and flash mental arithmetic. But there are many other extraordinary students. I can't think his skills stand out enough to make him seem particularly exceptional,*" *he argued.*" - *Mashima*

"I've been a teacher for several years now, and I've seen all kinds of students at this school. In the past few years, I had gotten the impression that Horikita Manabu and Nagumo Miyabi are particularly outstanding students,"

said Mashima.

"I certainly can't argue that," replied Chabashira. Both students had excellent academic and physical ability. They were the best in their respective grade levels, and each possessed unparalleled charisma, to boot.

"I was under the impression this year's crop of freshmen CAN'T compare to those two. There are SOME students who come CLOSE to matching them in CERTAIN areas, of course, but not in every area. What do you think is the extent of Ayanokouji's abilities, overall?" asked Mashima.

- Official Translation of Y1V11.5, page 56.

To put it in another way, Sae and Mashima, even after seeing Ayanokoji's and Arisu's results in ESE and more, still didn't convince themselves that THEIR students can surpass Manabu and Nagumo in ability, even in what they showcased, and even other respective field. Mashima for example understands Sakayanagi extremely well:

"I've been Sakayanagi's homeroom instructor for a year now, and I've come to understand her personality and her line of thinking. If she purposefully wanted to let Ayanokouji win, she could have just simply thrown each event during the exam, including the chess game."

With this, Sae and Mashima agree on the following regarding Nagumo and Manabu's abilities:
They are by far the most powerful individuals of the school in the last couple of years.
They are at least Master Level in chess. However you can't prove that they are better than Arisu, since nothing proves Mashima can perfectly grasp chess skill.
They could've easily done the level 10 of FMA.

Which means that Manabu is able to make the ANZAN arithmetic calculation of 15 columns each flashing a 3 digit number per 0.11 seconds, for a total of all 15 displayed in just 1.6 seconds. This score is similar to the current world record for the fastest arithmetic calculation of this specific caliber. For the specific reason why the FMA is so insane in CPI check out this document: COMING SOON
Feat here: (Overall 0.1 seconds faster for improvisation)

Even Mashima TELLS us that the results of the FMA are not even that impressive in their environment, as he doesn't think of Arisu or Koji as particularly exceptional for achieving them despite being impressive. Such excellence is expected in ANHS and it shows the cognitive prowess of the setting, as the intellect of geniuses inside ANHS all meet a very high standard.

Another aspect to take into account is that Chabashira herself still believed that the SCPs are in a league higher than her current assessment of Ayanokoji's skills, as she believes Manabu to be more impressive than Ayanokoji's academic prowess and known special exam wins as well.
(FRI, PSI, WMI, VSI, Charisma, Leadership)

(Y2V7) - Ayanokoji despite acknowledging the fact he's above Manabu both academically and physically, hypothesized a situation where he was in the exact same grade as him under the ANHS school system he doesn't know who'd win between himself and Manabu.
Ayanokoji in addition also lowballed Manabu into saying at the very least he was powerful enough for him to be considered a "dangerous enemy".
This scales Manabu in fixed outsmarting EXTREMELY high by narrative to the point you can definitely argue it surpasses even that of Nagumo Miyabi despite the latter being superior narratively in non fixed situations. This also reinforces Manabu's superior ability of seeing through the hidden nature of every single special exam as Ayanokoji specifically mentioned if he was in the same grade; in other words they'd share the exact same experience + this IS Ayanokoji. Thinking of another way Manabu could rival Ayanokoji is well... extremely limited to say the least.
(Fixed Situation Outsmarting)

(Y2V9) - During Nagumo's monologue, he had labeled Manabu to be "much more dazzling and intelligent" than him. While not a direct indication of FSIQ, generally speaking it's an indication of Manabu by statements is superior to Nagumo in general intelligence and intellect by a margin guaranteeing only few individuals such as Yagami Takuya or Ayanokoji are able to best Manabu in a competition of pure intellect among his respective verse.
(GAI, Intellect)

Conclusion

Manabu, Ultimate Student of ANHS, is a powerful individual by both feats and statements in comparison to his verse no matter how you look at it.

Manabu's Top 10 Strongest Categories (Sub-Categories):

1. Emotional Intelligence (Emotional Understanding)
2. FSIQ (Cognitive Proficiency Index)
3. Sensory
4. Analysis
5. Foresight
6. Logical Reasoning (Abductive)
7. Strategy (Logistics)
8. Tactics (Management)
9. Planning (Preparations)
10. Manipulation (Indirect)

In terms of Intellect, his main strongest points are Metacognition, Memory and Fluid Intelligence. When compared to his verse in terms of intellect, he far surpasses the likes of Koenji and Arisu and rivals the intellect of Yagami Takuya but ONLY narratively.

Outsmarting wise due to his limited amount of screen time he suffers from a slight lag in long term offensive play and overall versatility. However, looking at his positives he specializes in short term and indirect confrontation which are supported from his play as a Tactician who relies on intricate abductive reasoning and predictions while also playing as a brief Planner which contain simple stages but have relative complexity overtime while behind the scenes.

Narrative and feats wise, the Student Council Presidents are at another level, being outstanding individuals and the only people who truly have proven to be able to stand up to White Room students in their overall ability.
Manabu's strong point is intelligence, even Nagumo believes that Manabu is more specifically intelligent than him.

However Manabu, in this case, has proven with his feats he surely backs up his narrative which rivals or might be even higher than that of Nagumo Miyabi.

Thank you for reading.