1. FSIQ (Full Scale IQ)

Why we picked this category

We chose FSIQ for starters bcoz it is the base of everything else. Outsmarting someone is first of all about raw cognitive horsepower: how fast u process info, how much u understand, how well u reason and how well u picture things. FSIQ is also the only category that is built from sub-indexes already (CPI, VCI, FRI, VSI) so we can scale it properly instead of arguing in vague terms. We also added NCPS (novel complex problem solving) and learning ability, bcoz in a game like Death Note u constantly face problems nobody has solved before and u have to learn on the spot.

Sub-indexes used:

- **CPI:** processing speed / how much info is processed
- **VCI:** knowledge and understanding of information
- **FRI:** reasoning, abstract thinking and novelty
- **VSI:** visual-spatial ability
- **NCPS:** solving new complex problems with no template
- **Learning ability:** how fast new skills are picked up

CTW L side (Captain Timo)

Alright, for FSIQ I will use the **Nikaido feat** for CPI, VCI and FRI.

After receiving an email from the immunologist requesting safety for his daughter, L is able to read the past achievements, conference papers and recent activities of Nikaido. Lawliet instantly goes through all the preceding information which is merely biographical and derivatively related to the current state of affairs. He further culls all relevant top secret and confidential documents across the world's intelligence agencies, investigating Nikaido's activities, the new Ebola-like virus developed in Congo, the level 4 research facility in Japan and the development of an antidote. He parallel processes from multiple monitors and synthesises all the information alongside the email and probabilistically derives the current state of affairs, causal antecedents and future predictions from incomplete information. He is even able to give an 83% danger rate, comprehending the exact probabilistic rates of all the preceding factors as well as the adversary's incentive, intellectual capacity and collective capacity.

- **CPI** is for the processing it took for this many variables.
- **VCI** is for the understanding of the information from Nikaido's files that L used to build his scheme in the novel, which translates to insane comprehension.
- **FRI** is for the reasoning, abstract thinking and novelty required to perform this exploit.

Nikaido is a world renowned immunologist who developed a virus with 100x the spread rate of Ebola, capable of wiping out most of humanity, which is biotechnology and scientific knowledge beyond us, so the framework is novel for one.

Moreover Lawliet is synthesising data from seemingly unrelated sources across global intelligence agencies which balance the geopolitical state of affairs, and these abductions create the groundwork he uses to anticipate Blue Ship, Kujo and the FBI who are using social, political and technological influencing of the highest caliber. So Lawliet is dissecting causal networks across data ranging from global intelligence agencies, with federal involvement of a global superpower alongside a multinational inhabitance of a super-virus. This creates a massively larger systemic scope compared to Light Yagami.

Quantitative interrelations en masse develop a system in composite which produces qualitative characteristics (emergence) → larger systemic frameworks have higher causal networks → denser causal lattice obscures causal nexus → creates more sophistication in Lawliet's inferences objectively. L also gobsmacks in novelty.

L's reasoning is also massively augmented by his ability to give exact percentages on his conclusions, evident by the 83% "danger rate". We see this in the manga and LABB briefly, and it's also noted by Ohba in the guides and Watari in File 15 as a special ability for probabilistic modelling. This is outright transcendent to humans since we inherently struggle with abstract and probabilistic reasoning, yet L translates a verbal stimulus into mental abstractions and then concretizes them mathematically into a probabilistic model, a prime number denoting an EXACT FIGURE.

He is doing all of this nigh instantly (lowballed) and in parallel, which isn't possible for system 2 thinking, which L is employing here. His abstract probabilistic modelling + parallel processing aren't even things that can be measured quantitatively through empirics since the neuropsychological literature doesn't sufficiently provide these due to biological/cognitive transgression. (LABB scans, page 40)

L's knowledge (VCI) is also broad, across the timeline L has shown to be proficient in: Criminal Justice & Criminology, Forensic Science, DNA Analysis, Toxicology, Fingerprint Analysis, Psychology, Criminal Psychology, Behavioral Analysis, Cognitive Psychology, Sociology, Law, Medicine & Anatomy, Biology, Mathematics, Data Science, Statistics, Economics (Source: File 15), Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Network Security, Programming, Data Recovery & Analysis, Linguistics, English, French, Italian, German, Japanese.

Comp Light side (Baku's Daddy)

CPI: notebook regain. Facts:

- Misa after regaining the notebook couldn't remember L's name even when she knew his name before memory loss.
- Ryuk says it's not necessary to remember all memories for Misa. However, Ryuk then says in Light's case he does remember everything.

Further expansion: this proves the Death Note only gives back memories, it doesn't magically affect your brain to remember everything or process all your memories.

Proof: according to the Death Note rules, you *lose* your memories. Carefully, "lose" implies that your memories aren't being suppressed or something. They are being deleted from your

mind basically if u comprehend the word "lose" in this sense. So when u regain memories ur brain won't be just recalling them, it will process them. Now if u look at the manga panel we can notice Light is regaining memories visually.

Let us interpret Light only spends 25% of his day doing Kira activities. Now let us consider 1 second of life = 1 visual image memory (this is false as on average in 1 second our brain captures 10-15 visual image memories, I am just interpreting at very lowball). This gives Light around 30+ million visual images. Our brain at bare minimum takes 10 trillion operations per second to process these memories. Misa not being able to remember everything proves this has to be done consciously and it depends on the capacity of ur brain.

So 30 million × 10 trillion = 300 quintillion operations per second, and CTW L's feat u gave is not even 1% of this feat. This is a very lowball. I can use actual midball where this scales much higher.

FRI: memory loss + voice engineering feat + notebook swap. Whole memory loss is about abstract reasoning, as Light is using Death Note rules, a pattern based set of rules, to solve his problems of memory loss variations and predictions. For example Light uses a complex notebook swap by swapping ownership of notebooks between Rem and Ryuk to solve the problem of Ryuk getting caught by L, as Light knows Ryuk is neutral. Ryuk will leak info to L, Rem will lie to save Misa. The notebook swap also prevents L from checking any past recordings on Light, as cameras won't show Ryuk's shinigami, because Light is now connected to Rem so L won't be able to see Ryuk anywhere. The swap serves many other purposes too.

NCPS: the desk drawer trap. Light's desk drawer trap is a brilliant example of building a high-tech security system out of cheap, everyday items. It's a multi-layered mind game. Light's biggest problem is that he is hiding a supernatural notebook in a house where his family or a professional detective could walk in at any moment. Hiding it under a mattress or behind a poster is a losing strategy because a real police search finds it instantly.

- **Layer 1, the honeypot:** he puts a normal unlocked teenage diary on top of the desk drawer. If his nosy sister or mother opens it they read some boring lines, feel guilty for invading his privacy and stop searching. If a professional like L searches, Light knows they will see through the diary, so the diary also acts as a physical shield, adding normal weight to the drawer to hide the fact that the bottom of the drawer is higher than it should be.
- **Layer 2, invisible intrusion indicators (triple threat):** (1) he pulls the bedroom door shut while holding the handle at a specific downward angle of a few degrees, a normal intruder lets it snap back flat. (2) He jams a tiny piece of fragile mechanical pencil lead deep inside the crack of the door hinge, it snaps when the door opens. (3) He uses a "meta-trap": a tiny piece of paper in a blind spot at the bottom crease between the drawer cover and the desk frame, while intentionally leaving a more obvious trap on the top edge. A professional finds the top one and holds it with tweezers, then completely misses the bottom paper which falls silently when the drawer is pulled even an inch.
- **Layer 3, the scorched-earth failsafe:** under a fake wooden bottom Light installs a battery circuit, a small spark generator and a plastic pouch of lighter fluid next to the

notebook. Light would rather lose his weapon forever than let L prove he has it. To access it safely Light inserts the inner ink tube of a ballpoint pen (non-conductive) into a pinhole at the corner of the desk to push a metal contact tab out of the way. **Variation A:** if a detective pries the false bottom without the pin, the spring-loaded tab snaps shut, completes the circuit and the notebook burns in seconds. **Variation B:** if they violently yank the whole drawer out, the grounding wire is anchored to the back wall while the live wire is on the drawer, so past the mechanical limit the wire tears out of the socket and snaps against the battery's ground plate, triggering the fire anyway.

Since the Death Note is organic paper it leaves zero forensic evidence. Light turns a legal death sentence into a minor domestic accident, and he can tell his dad he was just hiding illegal firecrackers. Clearly the methodology of Light's AR and NCPS is better than L here.

Learning ability: synthetic voice after L's death. After L's death Light is trying to recover data loss, as Watari erased all data. Light says he will create the same synthetic voice L used. In 2004, because of lack of AI, creating a synthetic voice from scratch required years worth of knowledge. Light is a law student so he doesn't really have engineering knowledge, and in the manga he says it's impossible to hack the task force database, which means he didn't study engineering in the past. So Light had to learn the required engineering right after L's death, in a day. To create a synthetic voice u need to learn for 5-6 years. Light learned this in a day, which is insane. (In 2004 hacking and voice engineering overlapped a lot, so good knowledge in one makes u strong in the other.)

VSI: the 64 cameras. Light visualised 64 camera view positions and angles to cover his potato chip trick. This is good bcoz Light had to do it in 3D, as cameras view objects in 3D and Light has to track his own movements in 3D, which is far more complicated than visualising an island in 2D, so it clearly surpasses the 2D island feat.

VCI: It's stated in the *How To Read* Death Note analysis book (canon) that Light > L in knowledge, which means Light > Wammy's House curriculum. Light also showcases insane engineering knowledge with his voice modulator creation.

2. Adversity Capacity

Why we picked this category

Outsmarting is not only done when everything is comfortable. A smart person has to keep thinking straight when stress, fear, grief, exhaustion or physical hardship attack the brain. Raw intelligence that collapses under pressure is not really usable intelligence, so we needed a category that measures how much of the mind survives under adversity. It is also very relevant to Death Note, since both characters play a life-or-death game.

Comp Light side

Light would have to have beyond superhuman adversity capacity to survive 50 days in confinement. That's beyond any possible limit of humans, which I explain by how the brain biologically suffers in such an environment.

CTW L side

For Stress Tolerance, Composure, Mental Fortitude, Mind Control, Perseverance and Impulse Control I will be using the **Memory Loss counter-strategy**.

As we later find out, L wrote his own name in the Death Note, guaranteeing his death, while simultaneously running a multi-layered deception (fake notebook swap, fabricating news coverage, controlling information to bait Light...) while functioning as lead investigator to deceive Light and being a confidant to Soichiro. One can see in the movies how L's composure was intact even for the viewers.

But this feat becomes exponentially better when Watari gets brutally killed in the process while L is stopping his own heartbeat (an autonomic override Light can never do) to deceive Light about his fake death. This event was a big emotional trauma to L, who constantly felt guilt over it as seen in the novel, yet L maintains the process of stopping his own heartbeat, not letting Light a single clue. Watari has been the closest person to him in his existence, seeing a pure evil being like Light kill him overwhelmed his guilt, yet he somehow managed his emotions to not even let a single heartbeat answer that guilt.

The cherry on top is that L likely discovered that when he dies he would reach nothingness itself, we see in Chapter 107 of DN: "All humans will, without exception, eventually die. After they die, the place they go is MU (Nothingness)." L did all of the above only to become permanent non-existence as a tactical choice, without an ounce of hesitation. That is by itself easily beyond even high tier, where at best some of Light's categories reach mid-high tier.

For Cognitive Discipline I will use the Nikaido feat I mentioned previously, the quantified discipline to pull this exploit is considerably beyond Light's capabilities.

Comp Light side's rebuttal

- CTW L was shown to grieve so much on Watari's death that he literally had illusions of Watari at the final scenes of the CTW novel, an anti-feat for L's mental fortitude (playing chess against an illusion made by his own mind).
- When Blue Ship takes away Maki we are shown L raging out, an impulse control anti-feat.
- Heartbeat stop only applies to cognitive discipline, bcoz L requires energy to do it. It doesn't apply to emotional trauma, that's a completely different story.
- L was shocked and disturbed when he got to know about the existence of shinigami, meanwhile Light didn't really react as severely, which shows Light having clearly better mental fortitude. Another anti-feat for L.
- CTW L also had Watari's thoughts coming in between his missions constantly, which shows L's weak focus under emotional fatigue, another anti-feat for cognitive discipline.
- The most interesting part of ur feat is L writing his own name in the Death Note knowing he'll go to non-existence. While that is a great exploit, u ignored that Light did the exact same thing by writing in the Death Note, so even then it would not be better than Light.

3. Sensory

Why we picked this category

Intelligence is not only what the brain does with information, it's also how good the information coming in is. A detective and a mastermind both need accurate perception of the environment (touch, hearing, sight) to notice traps, lies and small details. Both characters are shown noticing tiny things (door knobs, pen sounds), so this category tests whose perception is actually sharper, instead of mixing it with reasoning.

Comp Light side (opening)

- Light was able to sense a shift of 5 mm in his door knob just by touching it. This proves Light can sense changes at mm level.
- Multiple times when Ryuk suddenly appears behind him, Light can sense and know Ryuk's presence without hearing Ryuk or looking at him. This proves Light can sense things without touching or seeing.
- Light's observation is elite as he noticed Rem's protectiveness towards Misa in just a few days by interpreting Rem's words.

CTW L side

Sensory is defined as relating to the senses or to the way the body receives and processes information from the environment: it's the information ur nervous system receives through sensory receptors and sends to the brain for interpretation. Keep this in mind.

Regarding Light's sensory:

- Do u have proof that Light sensed the 5 mm difference on the door knob by pure touch?
- "Light senses Ryuk's presence without hearing or looking" is a contradiction, how can Light sense information about Ryuk without any information relayed by his senses? In that case it's more of intuition than sensory.
- Noticing Rem's protectiveness by interpreting her words is not a sensory feat but a VCI feat, it entails understanding of Rem's words rather than only using information relayed by Light's eyes.

So 2/3 of ur feats are not part of sensory, and the rest still lacks proof.

L's feat: finger on paper during Rem's frenzy. When Takada dies and Light secretly writes her name using Rem as cover, Rem deliberately maximizes ambient noise to mask the sound of Light's pen. Despite that interference L still isolates "the sound of a finger moving on paper" out of the noise. Though he fails to pinpoint the exact location in time, L's amazing feat lies in picking a faint sound out of deliberately generated acoustic clutter.

In perspective, detecting a target sound against background noise is governed by signal-to-noise ratio (SNR):

- Normal speech-in-noise recognition threshold sits around 0 dB SNR.
- The "cocktail party effect" lets trained/attentive listeners go down to roughly -10 to -15 dB SNR in good conditions.
- Below about -15 to -20 dB SNR even trained listeners lose the ability to detect discrete transient, low-energy sounds, close to the functional floor for humans.
- A pen or fingertip on paper is a very quiet sound, realistically 20-30 dB SPL at close range, gone in a fraction of a second.
- Rem's ambient noise can be assumed well above 60-70 dB SPL, as displayed in the 2nd 2006 movie where the feat happens.

That puts L's effective SNR around -35 to -40 dB, two to three orders of magnitude below where human auditory discrimination normally fails: the target is buried roughly 1,000-10,000x below the masking noise in raw power. L's superiority over Light in this category is evident, it points to an almost inhuman degree of auditory attention/processing, and it overwhelms Light's sensory feats in every compartment (given they even have established proof).

Comp Light side

1. Proof that Light sensed the 5 mm change by touch: he didn't react at all until he touched the door knob. When he touched it he paused for a moment and then entered. This proves Light sensed a mm level change with his touch.
2. Sensing just by hearing and seeing is not necessary. U can sense temperatures. Kiruma Souichi's echolocation works similarly, he doesn't see, hear or touch but still senses using echolocation as it is part of his senses. Senses vary, that's why ur definition falls. Light cannot just go out with intuition, intuition being this consistent is less plausible, just like how L's stock market feat cannot be pure intuition.

CTW L side

1. There's still no proof, u just described it. I got the scene (video link) and it's different from what u described. To verify that people can enter his room in secret, Light adjusted the door knob 5 mm lower than its original position (when people close a door the knob adjusts naturally to its highest position). When Light comes back he finds the knob at its highest position, meaning someone entered. But verifying this doesn't need sensory of a high caliber, Light just needs to push the knob higher with his hand to see if it can go up (meaning no one entered) or not (someone closed the door leaving it at the highest). So there is no need and thus NO PROOF Light used high-caliber sensory.
2. U sense temperatures by touch, ur skin has temperature receptors. Echolocation necessitates hearing: Kiruma made sounds and listened to echoes bouncing back, and even external sounds would make it difficult for him. Intuition is prevalent in fiction and real life, people trusting their gut. If Light really detects Ryuk without a sound, provide proof. "Light senses objects without conventional senses" is a contradiction, either way Light needs his 5 senses.

In conclusion, no valid feats in sensory for Light against a sensory feat far beyond humanity's capabilities for L Lawliet.

Comp Light side (final rebuttal)

1. Yes Light sets his door knob by 5 mm every day. Even in ur video clearly Light reacted when he turned the knob, suggesting he didn't use eyesight and hearing. Ur way of figuring it out also requires sensory, as Light is figuring out by touch whether his hand can go upward or not. Also door knobs even at most full can be displaced further upwards, if u leave it hanging it returns to original position again, so leaving it 5 mm downward gives almost the same experience. We see Light doesn't turn the knob upward fully, he just turns it slightly and instantly recognises. This again shows Light tracking mm level changes by sensory. (Try it with ur door knob: turn it up mechanically to max, then try further, it will displace more, due to the spring mechanism.)
2. Intuition also requires some sensory input. What u r describing is pure gambling. So are u arguing it can be intuition or pure gambling? U misinterpreted what I mean by "conventional", maybe my bad wording, I just wanted to show a difference between Light's sensory and an ordinary human's sensory. Even intuition requires at least some sensory input is a general fact, I don't think I have to prove it.

(End of discussion about Sensory.)

4. Adaptability

Why we picked this category

Death Note is a game where every move of the opponent can break ur plan. Being smart is not only making a good plan but also changing ur thinking when the world stops matching ur model. So we picked adaptability, and we defined the subcategories to make scaling easier:

- **Environmental:** adapting according to the environment around u
- **Situational:** adapting to a certain situation
- **Cognitive:** switching ur thinking according to the situation or between different types of problems (e.g. a sudden burden comes in ur daily routine and u easily adjust to it)

CTW L side (Captain Timo)

Environmental. L adapts to a moving sequence of hostile environments in succession: an internet cafe (disguising Maki as a boy to blend into public space), a secluded mountain route chosen specifically for signal isolation to make his call to the president, a relocation to the sea to contain/evade Kujo's pursuit, hijacking his own truck's controls to stage a public diversion by dumping sports memorabilia into a crowd, and finally scaling a moving aircraft with a harpoon and rope for the final confrontation. He's even willing to move towards a world of absolute nothingness for the sake of taking down Light.

Cognitive. Mogi's death. Most of L's conclusions over Kira (needing a name, face...) get falsified when Mogi dies with no name being leaked. L adapts immediately by readjusting his model of Kira (needing only a face) while simultaneously issuing tactical orders (keep police out of downtown, deprioritize Sayu).

Situational. L still stopping his heartbeat to not let a single clue pass regardless of Watari's death, which brought him massive guilt.

Quality of the feats:

- *Environmental:* Endsley's Situational Awareness model divides adaptation into three stages (perception of elements, comprehension of meaning, projection of future states). When a person moves to a new place under threat there is a measurable "SA reset" cost: even trained personnel (special forces, pilots) show tens of seconds to low minutes of degraded decision quality while re-establishing Level 2-3 SA. SERE-style training exists to merely shorten that window since erasing it is almost impossible. L moved through 5 different environments in the Blue Ship takedown and at each transition immediately exploits the new environment's properties (crowd density for concealment, isolation for secure comms, altitude for the endgame) with no pause. His SA cost is close to 0, across domains that would normally need distinct expertise (urban camouflage, comms security, maritime evasion, vehicular pursuit, aerial combat).
- *Cognitive:* Confirmation bias and belief perseverance (Nisbett & Ross) show even professionals resist updating a working model, often needing dissonance (Festinger) for minutes to hours and external help. The usual process is anomaly detection → dissonance → deliberation → revision → operational translation. L compresses that into a single step.
- *Situational:* even biofeedback practitioners at best can lower their heartbeat but not stop it at will, there is no documented real life feat of a human doing this, and L does it with immense shock and grief that should be degrading his control. Each feat pushes L to a ceiling above humanity in adaptability.

Comp Light side (Baku's Daddy)

Environmental: the 50 days confinement. Under sensory deprivation the brain undergoes sleep problems, as no sensory data tells it day and night, so the sleep cycle is disturbed deeply. Light doesn't show a single symptom of his circadian cycle being disturbed, which requires him to adapt to the new environment from day 1. Human brain biologically cannot overcome sensory deprivation effects on sleep, let alone adapt. U have to adapt cognitive loads, thermal adaptations, metabolic phase locking and even adjust ur internal biological clock. This gives Light a literal superhuman environmental adaptability.

Cognitive.

- Light was aggressive against L before the memory loss arc. When L confines Misa, Light changes his thinking from killing L to defending himself. He controls his impulse and adapts his thinking style.
- When L reveals himself at the To-Oh ceremony, completely unexpected, Light shifts again: instead of proving his innocence to L he proves it to the task force and keeps himself safe logically, bcoz he confirmed L suspects him no matter what so he cannot deceive L. Light was in a comfortable position and still adapts.
- At the beginning of the series, during the Lind L Taylor trap, we see how reckless Light was. After that mistake Light changed and adapted his thinking, starts thinking

how to counter L's investigation. We see this in L's isolation arc, as Light makes a brilliant comeback by pulling out the majority of officers from the Kira case.
- When Light unexpectedly finds out someone is stalking him (Raye Penber) he keeps his cool and doesn't kill Raye instantly. Light uses Raye to get names of other FBI agents, which clearly shows Light shifted from short term tactics to long term plans.

Situational. During Naomi's manipulation, when Naomi gives a fake name, Light is completely shocked. But he changes his approach style: before he was manipulating Naomi psychologically, now he starts manipulating her logically. The impressive part is Light doesn't change his original decision. He had two options, manipulate Naomi into giving her name or make the shinigami eye trade with Ryuk (which Ryuk was pushing him to accept). Light resists and continues his original decision with a new approach and succeeds.

What makes Light's adaptability impressive is that unlike L, who has a lot of time and a comfortable position, Light adapts under multiple adversaries and time pressure.

(End of discussion about Adaptability.)

5. Strategy

Why we picked this category

We separated strategy from planning, bcoz they test different skills. **Strategy** is a scheme in a situation where every variable isn't controllable, so u have to choose the highest percentage way to win. It's a framework of logic u base decisions on to achieve a goal. **Planning** is a scheme where u calculate meticulously a step by step process for an objective, where the steps and the way of executing are already well known to u. We picked strategy bcoz Death Note is mostly a game against an opponent that u cannot control, so how u decide under uncertainty is the real core of outsmarting. Planning gets its own category later.

CTW L side (Captain Timo)

Feat: L's counter-strategy against Memory Loss. L reverse-engineers Light's entire future plan, a plan Light hasn't even executed yet, from a single anomaly (Light not immediately using the fabricated 13-day-rule alibi to act), then builds a countermeasure resistant enough to survive an unforeseen variable (Watari's death) mid-execution.

After Light and Misa are imprisoned, the task force finds the rule in the notebook saying that if the notebook goes unused for 13 consecutive days the user dies. This should clear both Light and Misa since both were imprisoned well past 13 days without access to a notebook and neither died. Rem confirms the rule is true when asked directly. However L, who trusts his reasoning above all, finds that this contradicts his profile of Light = Kira and Misa = 2nd Kira. L has Watari illegally track Misa starting the second day after her release. Watari breaks into her house while she's out and finds a second Death Note hidden in her room.

With the notebook in hand L confirms it matches the weapon used throughout the case, cross-references the names in it against known victims, and rapidly internalizes the full rule

set, mapping each rule to events that already occurred. From here L runs an extended inference chain to reconstruct Light's entire plan before Light executes any of it:

1. The rule must be false. Both survived well past 13 days without a notebook.
2. Someone had to use a notebook on Light's behalf. L watched Light directly and saw no notebook use. But Misa had access the moment she was released, so Light likely instructed her to kill in his place, manufacturing an active "Kira" as an alibi.
3. Rem lied on purpose for emotions. Shinigami are bound to their notebook's user. Rem has shown no particular loyalty to Light but did to Misa. She can kill by writing names, can grant the Shinigami Eyes, and if Misa's safety is seriously threatened she has a documented capacity to intervene physically.
4. Because Light's goal is an airtight alibi (and he has sacrificed others for it, Naomi and Shiori), L concludes Light's plan is to engineer a scenario putting Misa in apparent danger specifically to force Rem to take direct lethal action, using Rem as the actual murder weapon against L while Light stays clean. The trigger will be renewed suspicion of Misa as Second Kira. If Misa is caught "acting as Kira" again and threatened with re-detainment, Rem would have to break the 13-day rule once her intervention becomes visible, shielding Light's crimes.

So L knows Light will fabricate the 13-day rule as false evidence of innocence, use Misa as bait to provoke Rem into killing L, and use Kiyomi Takada / the Third Kira misdirection as cover.

With the plan reconstructed L builds a layered defense:

- Watari constructs a dummy Death Note identical to Misa's real one, swapped in after her second day of freedom.
- He arranges for the news to keep reporting apparent Kira killings, so Light and Misa believe the real notebook is still active, when the only genuine killings were from the first day after Misa's release.
- L manages when Light learns that "Misa resumed killing", so L controls the timing of Light's response and decides when the confrontation happens.
- L writes his own name in the real Death Note, specifying he'll die peacefully in 23 days. Names written can't be erased, so this makes him unkillable by any name-based writing for that window, neutralizing Rem's actual lethal tool in advance.
- L reveals the notebook and his own name to Soichiro as proof of seriousness, using his guaranteed death as leverage to get Soichiro's cooperation. With Soichiro's backing he turns the rest of the team against Light in secret.
- L stages a fake pretext: publicly proposing to "test" the 13-day rule with two death-row criminals. The entire Task Force leaves for the airport, leaving L apparently alone and undefended. If Light doesn't act now his fabricated rule gets disproven for nothing, and L being "alone" removes any obstacle. L tells Light that Watari is bringing Misa and that Light should seize her notebook during the exchange to detain her, exactly the scenario Light needs: apparent danger to Misa to provoke Rem.
- Watari collapses from a heart attack when he arrives with Misa, an unpredicted variable, which L adapts to by stopping his own heartbeat to fake his death.

- Believing both are dead, Light walks down, retrieves what he thinks is the real notebook from Misa, and writes Soichiro's name instructing him to come back with the other notebook and deliver it. Soichiro returns, opens the briefcase, and the notebook isn't inside. The entire "test trip" was staged, the Task Force never left, just relocated nearby to monitor live via audio.

The moment Light realizes the notebook is missing, the Task Force reveals itself with weapons drawn, and L reappears, revealing he faked his death.

How good is this feat? In adversarial planning (game theory, poker theory, military strategy) the measure is how many layers of "I predict u'll do X, which means I do Y, which means u do Z" u can think. Even trained strategic thinkers (pro poker players, wargame analysts) are documented as reliably reasoning to about 2-3 levels before accuracy degrades sharply. L's chain: Light won't act immediately → Light needs Rem to act, not himself → Rem's loyalty is to Misa, not Light → Light will manufacture a scenario endangering Misa to force Rem's hand → the mechanism will be making it look like Misa is caught as Second Kira again → L needs to look defenseless at the moment the trap triggers. That's 5+ layers, each built on the last without Light leaking any info (it's built on what Light *didn't* do).

That's an extremely high-specificity conclusion from an extremely low evidence count (built on a lack of action). Going this deep on this little data would normally produce a wide uncertain spread over many plans, not one fully specified branching sequence treated as near-certain enough to bet his own guaranteed death on.

Psychology measures nested belief-reasoning as "orders of intentionality" (Dunbar, Kinderman & Bentall). Adults generally use around 4th-5th order before comprehension collapses in controlled testing. L's strategy includes Light's belief about Rem's constraints, Rem's belief about her obligation to Misa, Misa's belief that she's acting normally, Soichiro's belief that this is a real test and the Task Force's belief that they've left for the airport, updated in a specific sequence at specific times without any party (except Soichiro) knowing they're in a fabricated scenario, while also resisting Watari's death as an unplanned situation. L's adversity is also insane, he has to strategize against layers of deception (Light's memory loss shielding any trace of info, shinigami supposedly neutral which would go against Rem's help, the whole trap set against him).

Comp Light side (Baku's Daddy)

I will use 2 feats, one from the manga and one from Light Up The New World.

Feat 1: Rem's sacrifice strategy (manga)

Basic structure: Light builds suspicion in L's mind → directs L into suspecting the 13-day rule → Misa becomes suspicious after regaining memories → L tests the 13-day rule because Light directs him indirectly → Rem will do anything to save Misa, Rem will kill L.

- Light starts his indirect manipulation by not instructing Rem to find a new user ASAP, anticipating (using his intuition) that Rem will take a certain amount of time to deliver the notebook while Light is in confinement. He coordinates this with giving up his memories on exactly the 7th day. Once Light gives up his memories, L will catch the

shift in Light's behaviour. Would the task force catch it too? Actually no, as Light shields this using the sensory deprivation effects: by the 3rd or 4th day average humans start hallucinating, sleep problems, mental damage, a complete breakdown. Misa went crazy on her first day since she was brought in forcefully. Light surviving up to 6 days can be shielded by the fact that he willingly wanted to be in confinement. So no way other members figure it out as intentional. L, supported by his prior suspicion and his strong belief in intuition, would instead have his suspicion raised. Proof: even after camera surveillance proved Light innocent, L suspected Light strongly anyway.

- A new Kira appears on the 14th day, Higuchi's Kira. Light would have to predict by intuition how many days Rem needs to find a new user and time his memory forfeit accordingly. Because there are no logical baselines for L here and he relies on intuition, he cannot track Light's tactics.
- After Higuchi appears L has two possibilities: (1) Light planned something where he loses both ownership and memories of being Kira, (2) Light was manipulated by a Kira with access to police information, which aligns with L's profile that Kira has access to police. L will believe (1) more, but (2) is an important decoy and shield: if Light just blindly keeps raising L's suspicion, L can find it too obvious for a careful player. Possibility 2 favours Light's innocence and shields the strategy.
- Light conceals any info he might admit accidentally in L's lie detector tests by giving up his memories, and simulates himself as innocent in front of the members.
- Because of this and the Yotsuba arc events, L's suspicion on the memory loss trick becomes 100%. Now the 13-day rule clears Light's name in front of the task force, but L still suspects him, and since L suspects memory loss 100% the 13-day rule creates a contradiction (if Light is Kira how is he alive?). This makes L believe Light was aiming for exactly this to clear his suspicion. It's logically sound.
- Light redirects L's focus on just proving somehow that Light is Kira, so that L later suspects the 13-day rule and misses that Light might be doing this intentionally. Light further creates a bluff that he was using possibility 2 to prove himself innocent and directs L to overthink.
- Light asks Misa to start killings as soon as she is released. This raises L's suspicion on the fake rules by 100%. L will see these as the second Kira's killing patterns (profiled as less smart), so he won't suspect it as intentional. L's problem is that the 13-day rule is guarding Misa, so the most logical move is to test the rule, eventually forcing Rem to write L's real name. This is supported by another tactic: limiting L's information via Rem, a shinigami Light controls through Misa.
- Light took almost no risk, every move had support systems, near 100% success. Light also concords this with memory loss to create a false illusion that his goal of memory loss was to regain memories after clearing his name. He uses decoys and moles like Higuchi, and his status as Chief Yagami's son makes the task force believe him. With the notebook swap he shows Rem how people like Higuchi, much worse than Light, exist, forcing Rem to protect Light when necessary.
- The strategy also adapts: if Misa remembered L's name, Light would have used the 13-day rule to clear his name and get L killed. Since Misa forgot L's name, Light uses the 13-day tactic to instead raise L's suspicion, completely opposite according to the situation. The handcuffs scenario wasn't predicted by Light (direct statement by Rem) but it helped, as Light passed every lie detector and trap, using it as a shield.

Why is this strategy good? L putting Misa under confinement out of nowhere surprised Light. Misa being captured is a huge blow, Light loses his original plan and is on the back foot, he already had to save Misa somehow, and he was plotting the memory loss plan already, so creating this strategy with divided focus is insane. In CTW this strategy only failed bcoz Watari forcefully barged into Misa's house which is not lawful. We all know canon L won't go this far, and Light was correct in his judgments of L in the manga. The game theory is insane as Light not only constructs L's mindset but actively manipulates and controls his whole investigation from the confinement arc till the end, despite L's resistance to manipulation. It's also more intricate in deception and tactics, since something as simple as number of days can be perceived and varied in many ways. And the idea is creative and hard to come up with: building ur own suspicion against someone like L, would u really come up with it?

Feat 2: Post mortem strategy and notebook inheritance cycle (LUTNW)

Context: during the memory loss arc Light anticipates his memory loss can fail, so his plan anticipates his own death against CTW L (movies) and creates contingencies to raise a future heir as Kira or create a Neo Kira. Light predicts 10 years ahead and plans for multiple possibilities (his son being tracked, interventions etc.), and executes it with video recordings. (This analysis is from a doc so don't mind if u see other categories mentioned.)

Light's goal is to continue Kira's regime after his death. Arranging for this so early means he predicted his death: he had to view his memory loss plan without bias and anticipate counters. L is mortal and will age, so if Light dies he passes his Death Note to someone who carries on his legacy. Shaping an infant into Kira is easier than persuading someone, and under L's surveillance contacting Kira supporters was hard, so raising his own heir was a good idea. Misa is the biological mother of Hikari (Light's son) and can teach Kira's ideology. Light also has to anticipate that L will die for sure even if he wins (the 23 day counter), maybe he just anticipated it and didn't expect L to really find the counter, but the backup is already set. This is an insane foresight feat.

The setup. Light creates a recording telling his son to inherit his powers, in a dramatic manipulative way that isn't needed for his son, which I explain later. Light knows Ryuk dropped the notebook out of boredom, so he predicts that if Light dies Ryuk's entertainment cuts off, the Shinigami King will hear about Light's chaos and game and be fascinated, so the King would likely drop notebooks for fun, and more notebooks (up to the maximum 6) means more fun. Even if it doesn't match 6 exactly Light just needs multiple notebooks. Multiple notebooks create chaos, and Light understands absolute power either forces u to suicide out of guilt or corrupts, and corruption is easier after everyone saw what Kira did. Crime increasing after Kira's death makes people feel Kira made the world better, so when Neo Kira restores peace Kira's popularity is at its peak.

Variation 1: third party intervenes (what we see in the movie). Mishima tracks down Mikami and collects the notebook, becoming Neo Kira. This isn't only for Mishima: Light profiled how a person tracing his son would be. To trace Hikari u have to research Kira's case and Light's records deeply, and the rise in crime after Kira's fall supports Light's manipulation, so that person will be influenced by Kira's ideals and will have good perseverance, exactly the trait Neo Kira needs. Light talks dramatically on the recording to

complete the manipulation. Light reasons a normal civilian can't track Mikami, and the data will be protected until Neo Kira emerges, so likely a police related person will do it. Someone who serves justice is easy to corrupt, viewing Kira's ideal as an extension of the job. Light also explains the memory loss trick, bcoz the tracker has the intelligence and perseverance to use it well. Mishima is a police officer obsessed with Kira, will surely join the task force and become prominent, so he will likely get his hands on a Death Note, which he does. After Mishima uses memory loss the plan diverges: (1) Mishima regains memory under favourable conditions and continues Kira's legacy, or (2) Mishima fails, but the remaining notebooks still exist and Light uses the inheritance cycle. Both are favourable.

Variation 2: police closes in on Hikari too soon. Light already told Hikari about the memory loss trick and the 6 notebooks contingency, so the chaos from the dropped notebooks saves Hikari. (Hikari was just useless in the end lol.)

The recording is written for different audiences:

- *Son:* nothing special, a pushover and motivation.
- *Third party (Mishima):* justifies Light's ideology, which tempts Mishima to become Neo Kira. His mind already views Kira positively from tracing Mikami. Explaining memory loss makes the bait seem safe.
- *Yuki (next Kira):* Light predicts Mishima will pass ownership to a Kira supporter. Majority of supporters suffered in the past from criminals Kira killed, so they will likely get the notebook. They feel special, and when they realise other notebooks exist, pride makes them hunt for all 6. With 6 notebooks there is near 100% chance at least one user fits the profile. It doesn't matter if multiple Kiras hunt, as Mishima will still close in. After regaining memory and collecting all six, Mishima stands as the true successor.
- *Civilians:* some support Kira, others panic, chaos increases, fear of Kira lowers crime, and people question police since the video shows Light alive.
- *Police:* distrust between upper and lower ranks (lowers think higher ranks lied, higher ups are confused whether Light is alive), slowing the investigation so Kira gains tempo, similar to L's isolation strategy.

The strategies:

- *Notebooks strategy:* 6 notebooks create chaos and slow the police for a long time, serving Light in every scenario. If Hikari is alive he uses the chaos and recordings to manipulate other users into gathering notebooks. In the Mishima scenario chaos lets Mishima locate and gain all notebooks earlier. It increases Kira's influence and makes the case insanely complex (random death patterns from multiple Kiras). It conceals the real masterminds, and even if police catch all Kiras it benefits Mishima, and gives Hikari time to grow. Even if a shinigami reveals the 6th notebook, police have almost no way to track Hikari, and if someone does, it triggers the third party intervention variation. Light would have to engineer the ties of police and task force.
- *Neo Kira memory loss:* Light tells Mishima about memory loss in the recordings, predicts how Mishima's memory loss can go, and ensures via the 6 notebooks that a Kira gathers the notebooks for Mishima to regain. Shield: Mishima is a police officer,

other Kiras are possibly pulling strings, and Light might be alive (weak possibility), so the task force has almost no way to suspect Mishima whose acting will be genuine.
- *Genetic heir:* Hikari under Mikami's guidance is the main strategy. The chaos helps him grow and he uses the recordings. Shield: all legal data on Hikari removed. If tracked he corrupts the tracker → third party variation. If Hikari fails, other users can inherit though they favour Light less than Mishima and Hikari. This requires engineering an average child's development and how Mikami's guidance shapes the child. (Unfortunately Hikari failed to even fit an average child profile.)

Tactic: video recordings. They were never meant only for his son. They can only be accessed if u trace Mikami, so whoever does becomes Neo Kira. If leaked publicly, the other Kiras learn to collect all the notebooks, so at least 1 Kira will gain all, with Mishima's probability the highest. Mishima's police position also offers image protection.

Coordination. Hikari's variation is supported by the 6 notebooks (chaos), Mikami's guidance, no legal traces, the recordings, memory loss for defence, and Kira's social engineering. Hikari's death doesn't affect Light's position as his system has many ways to win. The Neo Kira variation uses the 6 notebooks to create chaos and conceal Mishima, predicts Mishima will be a major investigator, uses the recordings to bait the next Kira into collecting the notebooks and Mishima catches him. Hikari acts as a sacrifice to protect Mishima (Mishima can frame him), and Mishima gains trust for catching other Kiras. Neo Kira killing like Light spreads the rumour that Light is alive, misleading the task force and increasing Kira's support. 6 notebooks also give shinigami enough joy to not give up, and if notebooks are destroyed shinigami drop more, supporting the notebook inheritance cycle.

Why is this strategy good? Sheer complexity and larger framework: Light coordinates multiple strategies and tactics and manages the overall framework. He executes purely via pre-recorded recordings, which makes execution much harder than L's. He actively manages many variations. It's also a direct counter-anticipation to CTW L's strategy feat, though I don't think it debunks it, more of a slight buff to Light.

(End of discussion for Strategy.)

6. Foresight

Why we picked this category

Outsmarting someone means being already in the place where they will be. A strategy is only as good as the future it expects, so we picked foresight to test how well each character sees what is coming. We divided it into two subcategories:

- **Anticipation:** expecting something and preparing for it
- **Prediction:** estimating what will actually happen from available info

CTW L side (Captain Timo)

Anticipation. In the prologue of the CTW novel, L meets Maki in the US and predicts from "raw intuition" that they'll cross paths again. Eight months before the Nikaido case he has

Watari enter her data into HQ's entry system. When she arrives alone and in shock, she gets in without delay. The chance that a random vacation acquaintance becomes central to a global-stakes case within eight months is vanishingly small, plausibly well under 0.1%, especially when he relies on his own intuition.

Prediction. The Memory Loss prediction, where L predicts Light's plan based on the info I gave before. The brain simulates futures from past experience (Schacter and Addis) and the simulations degrade quickly with complexity and the number of agents. L simulates Light, Misa, Rem, Soichiro and the Task Force as separate actors. Mathematically the plan goes: (1) Light tries to kill L through Rem, (2) Light treats Misa's notebook as the real one, (3) Light takes the bait once the Task Force leaves, (4) Light writes Soichiro's name to fetch the second notebook, (5) Light's reaction once cornered matches L's model. If L was 90% on each step the joint probability is 0.9^5 ≈ 59%, at 80% each it's 0.8^5 ≈ 33%. L bet his life on it, meaning his confidence was much higher.

Concession. However I will concede the foresight point to Composite Light for the foresight he achieved with the CTW scheme u provided. His prediction there has two layers: (1) knowing the shinigami would drop the notebooks after his death, (2) a person who tracks down Mikami will be persistent, police-adjacent and sympathetic to Kira. The rest is built on Light anticipating his own death (overriding his ego to accept a potential defeat with the Memory Loss plan) and preparing the recordings, the heir and the inheritance logic. Klein's pre-mortem has people imagine their plan already failed, most avoid it bcoz of optimism bias and the planning fallacy, and we know how much ego Light has. Light also performs theory of mind across multiple actors (heir, police tracker, supporter, civilian). And Light cannot correct or adapt through failures since he's dead, so he compensates with contingencies. Mathematically: someone uses a notebook after Kira dies (~85%) → a successor holds all notebooks and evades capture (drops to ~15%) → Kira's world is established (<1%).

As for prediction, Light edges out L bcoz the horizon is bigger (10 years vs days), he accumulated more info (years of observed motive vs a single encounter), the process is more explicit and he models more varied agents (heir, tracker, supporters, police, civilians, shinigami).

Comp Light side

It's all good but I will add that Light would also have to anticipate the possibility of L countering Rem's sacrifice strategy, which is already very unlikely considering the several tactics Light used in it, and CTW L countering something like this is insane even to think of, so this is insane anticipation.

(End of discussion for Foresight.)

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7. Emotional Quotient

Why we picked this category

Death Note is a game between two humans, not two calculators. To outsmart someone u need to read what they feel, understand why they act, use emotions in ur own plan and keep ur own emotions under control. So we picked EQ and divided it into 4 subcategories (Emotional Perception, Understanding, Engagement and Management), following the usual ability model of emotional intelligence (Salovey/Mayer).

CTW L side (Captain Timo)

- **Emotional Perception (EP):** L's reading of Kujo's act. He notes she looked uncomfortable at the security checks but was actually alert and scanning the cameras. She can fake expressions and cry on command, so it's a professional performance being read.
- **Emotional Understanding (EU):** the Lind L. Taylor broadcast. L scripts a speech meant to provoke Light's specific insecurities (ego, pettiness, need to prove power). He bets Light will be baited into killing the "detective" on live TV. Light can't resist, and L confirms hubris, the Kanto location and the name-and-face limit.
- **Emotional Engagement (EE):** writing his own name in the DN, which I elaborated before.
- **Emotional Management (EM):** Watari's death which I elaborated before (+ the fact that he breaks his composure because of him shows how much he was willing to go for his mission, stopping his heart).

Comp Light side (Baku's Daddy)

EU: LUTNW. Light psychoanalysed his own son's emotional state after 10 years, without meeting a single person face to face except Mikami. He predicts Hikari's building ego and god complex due to the Death Note and how he will mistreat Mikami. He psychoanalysed Mikami: Mikami who worshipped Kira sees Light as the only true Kira, won't endure Hikari for long, eventually going mad and killing him. He psychoanalysed Mishima, a police officer who will trace Mikami: purely from the fact that Mishima could trace Mikami and was under Soichiro Yagami's guidance, he predicts Mishima will be corrupted by the Death Note and go for a cyber hacker like Shien. Light has much less info than L as he doesn't rely on real time observation at all, he is psychoanalysing people in the future whom he never met.

EP: I will just concede this.

EE and EM: Light's crying. In the manga, where Light's plan failed to defeat Mello and Soichiro is dying, it's proven Light was not crying genuinely due to the narrative of the chapter's name "enthusiastic play", which likely refers to Light fake crying. But Light can't produce such amounts of tears instantly by conventional method. Even if we assume he studied at an acting school, this is not how fake crying is taught. The most logical interpretation: Light is frustrated bcoz his plan failed against Mello, so he redirects his emotions from frustration to despair and guilt and turns them on at maximum intensity, allowing him to cry genuinely. Even more insane, once his father dies Light turns off his crying instantly, which shows he can do it the other way around. So Light can redirect, alter and engage emotions at maximum intensity at will, with any emotion. We can also infer he can 'create' emotions from neutral feelings, as the methodology is the same and creating is easier than redirecting.

If this doesn't convince u (since it could be acting skills), there's another feat that eclipses L in Emotional Engagement: in Episode 1-2 Light stated he was willing to sacrifice his mind and soul to use the Death Note, and Ryuk explained that humans who use it experience fear and suffering and can't go to Heaven or Hell. Yet Light still went on.

CTW L side

Alright, I give up Emotional Engagement due to Episode 1-2. I will still say Emotional Understanding goes to CTW L. The arguments on Light's side are basic: "a child handed absolute power develops an ego", "a fanatic who sees Light as the true Kira resents a replacement" and "a police officer immersed in Kira's case may be corrupted" are pretty common patterns.

Lawliet was able to analyze an abstract being and extrapolate a trap to lure him in, discerning his pride, rage, fervour, vigilance and ecstasy in the face of justice and godhood. This profile preceded the involvement of international law enforcement, so it was inferred from limited info. EU is predominantly causality in composition, so the profile was inductive, and I brought up that it was complete before Interpol joined as a pretext for a probability theory argument: the law of large numbers says conclusions get closer to the true value with larger samples, so extracting causality from very minimal information is more impressive. Furthermore Salovey emphasises affective forecasting and even synonymizes the construct with predicting the emotional future. Applicative evidence: Lawliet replicates the exact language use and features of Light's behaviour from established context, e.g. the use of prosodic features on "truly" emphasizes his psychological state, a stringent belief of moral correctness and righteousness, meaning his evil and arrogance are justified under moral positivism and pragmatism.

Comp Light side

I find u oversimplifying things from Light's side here, and the argument u provided from L's side prior now seems exaggerated. L knew Kira was a student bcoz most deaths happen during the night, and Light took the bait of the Lind L Taylor trap, which shows Kira's ego fitting the student profile L made earlier. So u seem to exaggerate L's EU.

On ur argument against Light's EU: saying the feats aren't great bcoz core emotions are simple, like a child's ego, is incorrect reasoning, and even if we accept it the same applies to L where all he figures out is the core emotion of a student's ego. There are also factors such as changes in a person's emotions, two contradicting feelings (partly EP too) etc. The best case is Mishima, who despite hating Kira and respecting someone like Soichiro Yagami will turn into Kira, which is insane EU. For a moment I can accept Hikari's psychoanalysis being simple to some extent, and Mikami's case partly, but Mishima wasn't as simple as u make it look. Also we are using methodology so all ur law of large numbers stuff doesn't work here, as methodology focuses on the process.

CTW L side

Alright, ur right about ur EU point, I guess I will concede this category.

(End of discussion for Emotional Quotient.)

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8. Manipulation

Why we picked this category

Outsmarting someone in the end means making them do what u want while they think they chose it. Both characters win mainly by controlling other people's decisions, so manipulation is a core piece of outsmarting. We divided it into 4 subcategories: **Direct, Emotional, Logical, Indirect**.

CTW L side (Captain Timo)

- **Emotional: conceded to Light.** Shiori's manipulation in the 2006 movies: Light orchestrated a plan to manipulate Misora through the Death Note to kill Shiori (his girlfriend) before killing herself in front of L and the entire task force, giving the sympathy of the latter to him. The emotional effect was so big that despite L's logical moves and his authority as the best detective in the world (which should have pushed them, especially given their profession, to lean on his side), they sided with Light nonetheless. They even threw hands at L in the movie (then again, Matsuda is not the brightest person but still).
- **Logical: conceded to Light** via his Memory Loss plan and his post mortem plan in LUTNW. The fake 13-day rule and the fake destruction rule are written with a shinigami pen, so they look authentic, and Rem confirms them. L can't verify them from inside the human world. If a Kira would be dead after 13 days, Light's survival points away from him. L's suspicion is already near-certain, so the contradiction pushes him to look for a trick, which is where Light wants his attention, and brings him to the exact trap that will lead to his death. L will test the 13-day rule which shields Misa, provoking Rem (a supposedly neutral shinigami) into killing L to save Misa. Also the hypothesis "Kira manipulated Light and Misa" gives L a second explanation favoring Light's innocence. With LUTNW as a contingency plan where Light gets found and convicted, it goes to a whole other level, bcoz from the POV of an opposition trying to counter the scheme, Light is dead and defeated so there's no reason to assume his moves anymore.
- **Direct: conceded** via the recordings Light made.
- **Indirect: conceded** due to the whole LUTNW plan.

(End of Manipulation.)

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9. Deception

Why we picked this category

Manipulation controls what people do, deception controls what people *believe*. In Death Note the whole game is hiding the truth (Kira's identity, the notebook, the rules) and faking the false one, so we wanted a separate category to check who is the better liar. We made 5 subcategories: **Fabrication, Concealment, Acting Skills, Sophistry, Misdirection**.

Comp Light side (Baku's Daddy)

I concede everything besides **Acting Skills** and **Concealment**:

- *Acting Skills:* Light's acting skills across the story that L has not matched.
- *Concealment:* his whole Memory Loss plan to LUTNW, which u described beforehand, how well concealed Light's moves were.

CTW L side (Captain Timo)

I take the rest:

- *Sophistry:* L Prime in the novel, where L fabricates the existence of a group of detectives embodying L instead of a single individual after his death, to ensure the L legacy persists across the world as a justice that protects people against crime even after Lawliet's death.
- *Misdirection and Fabrication:* countering the memory loss plan, which I described before.

(End of Deception. Let's move on.)

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10. Reasoning

Why we picked this category

This is the pure logic part of intelligence, how well a mind builds conclusions from evidence, without the fighting, tricks or emotions around it. We divided it into the three classical types for scaling: **abductive** (best explanation from incomplete info), **deductive** (certain conclusions from premises) and **inductive** (general patterns from specific cases). Death Note is a detective story so reasoning needs to be measured directly.

Comp Light side (Baku's Daddy)

L murders this category, Light even across iterations has not matched L's ability in it to this day. So I concede it.

CTW L side (Captain Timo)

- **Abductive:** the Nikaido feat explained before
- **Deductive:** LABB deductions
- **Inductive:** deducing Memory Loss in the 2006 movie

(End of Reasoning.)

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11. Planning

Why we picked this category

We separated planning from strategy earlier. Strategy is decision-making under uncontrollable variables, planning is the step by step construction of a scheme where the steps are known to u. Both are needed to really outsmart someone, one decides where to go and the other builds the road. We scale planning using intricacy (how many interlocking parts), coverage (how many scenarios are accounted for) and execution (how tight the scheme runs).

CTW L side (Captain Timo)

Feat: L Prime. Suruga realizes afterward that everything had been "pre-arranged", and L lists several of them himself:

- the weaker security check for Suruga than for Kujo
- the camera-free server room
- the deliberately forgotten auto-answer phone
- the dummy chip and decoy notebook
- strobe bombs
- a shipping container delivered to the warehouse ahead of time by hacking the port and shipping systems
- 50+ decoy transmitters matched to Maki's phone frequency
- a real transmitter inside Suruga
- a listening device and surveillance on the hideout
- the FBI crosscheck using Suruga's real ID
- the bluff of a second Death Note, used to get Suruga released

What makes this plan good is that it's **closed-loop**. He monitors Suruga and Kujo live (the phone, the camera feeds), so he can correct and it survives a lot of setbacks. When compared to Light, Light has better coverage with a longer time-horizon and several parallel routes, but the intricacy is better on L's part as there are dozens of verified, interlocking components, and the execution is tighter since it's closed loop as opposed to Light's open loop plan.

Comp Light side (Baku's Daddy)

Memory loss is heavily intricate. The example is Rem's sacrifice strategy as I stated, which is part of the memory loss plan, even leaving gaps in days affects so heavily and has such heavy game theory.

For coverage I will use the LUTNW plan. Light accounts for literally every possible scenario. His son might die, Mishima might fail, and he even anticipates very unlikely scenarios like L countering memory loss. And he applies them in his scheme very well as we see.

CTW L side

U're right, I should have accounted more for Memory Loss intricacies there. When we compare both plans, the intricacy is the same imo, Light could slightly be better. The coverage is better on Light's side. I will still maintain that L's execution in the CTW novel is much better due to his closed loop scheme compared to Light's plan which was largely scripted to create a sense of foresight.

Where each category ended up

Category	Where it went
FSIQ	Argued both sides (L: Nikaido; Light: notebook regain, notebook swap, desk drawer, voice engineering, 64 cameras, How To Read)
Adversity Capacity	Argued both sides, with rebuttals on L's anti-feats
Sensory	Argued both sides, L's pen-sound feat vs Light's door knob (disputed proof)
Adaptability	Argued both sides on all 3 subcategories
Strategy	L's counter to Memory Loss vs Light's Rem sacrifice + LUTNW
Foresight	Conceded to Light by Captain Timo
Emotional Quotient	EP conceded to L, EE and EU conceded by Captain Timo
Manipulation	Conceded to Light by Captain Timo
Deception	Light takes Acting Skills + Concealment, L takes Sophistry, Misdirection and Fabrication
Reasoning	Conceded to L by Baku's Daddy
Planning	Intricacy ~ equal (Light slightly ahead), coverage to Light, execution to L