

The Tale of Two Math Tests

Asia and Arnav are in the same math class and took a test last week. When the tests were returned by the teacher, Asia was very happy to see that she not only passed, but she got an “A”, the highest grade in the class! When Arnav got his test, however, he

saw that he received an “F” despite having met with the teacher for extra help. When their teacher handed back the tests, she praised Asia’s hard work. She told Arnav, however, that she was disappointed he didn’t do better.

What are some possible factors or variables that may have led to these different results?

Brainstorm two lists:

- 1. A list that identifies some of the systemic structures that could have impacted Asia’s result (the “A”)
- 2. A list that identifies some of the systemic structures that could have impacted Arnav’s result (the “F”)

Hint: Begin by considering what might have been happening on the day of the test. Then start thinking backwards in time. What happened the week leading up to the test? What about the month before that, and the previous month? And so on....

| Asia’s result: the A | Arnav’s result the F |
|--|---|
| Internal structures impacting Asia’s result: | Internal structures impacting Arnav’s result: |
| External structures impacting Asia’s result: | External structures impacting Arnav’s result: |