

The A3

The whole release decision on one page

What an A3 is

Toyota's single sheet of A3 paper for one problem, read left to right:

background → current condition → goal → root cause → countermeasures → plan → follow-up

`harness a3` builds it every night from what the harness already keeps: the kept reports, the scores, the kaizen register and the workflow history. It is published as `a3.html` on the reports site and fits one A3 landscape page.

First: what is being compared

The sheet opens with one sentence, so nobody has to guess:

This sheet compares **main at sha-51e5dcb** (Main to RC forecast) against **production 16.2.2**, run 2026-10-15 07:53 UTC.

Then the **final scoring**, Jidoka first: the Gate, and only when the Gate passes, the score with its band and dimensions. When the Gate and the kept verdict differ, it says why: *a FAIL kept as WARN because the A/A did not count.*

The gap, explained

Every failing difference lands in exactly one row, and the rows add up to the total:

Row	Means
claimed	one row per claim
contributed by a PR	it first appeared the night that PR merged, and the PR's files touch what changed
unexplained	no PR merged in between, or too many could have made it

1110 differences: claims explain 698; #466 most likely contributed 195; #470 24; #438 13; 9 more PR groups 32; **148 unexplained**.

From the 15 Oct 2026 forecast. Nothing is split between PRs by guesswork.

Current condition

- **Value stream map** of a change: merge → image build → accessibility audit → forecast → release gate → deploy → verify, with the waits, the inventory and an **andon** on any stage that stopped.
- **Four Paretos**, each cutting out the vital few that make up 80%: unclaimed hunks by cause, line stops by cause, confidence points lost by dimension, change-risk points by rule.
- **Quality strip**: Speed, Metrics and Tests, each *within reason, look or not measured* (hatched, never green).
- **Real courses**: the course corpus loaded in production's reader and main's, page by page.

Timing on control charts

One small XmR chart per journey: production's limits as a band, main's median night by night as dots.

centre = mean of production's nightly medians
m $\bar{R}$ = mean moving range between consecutive nights
UCL = centre + 2.66 × m $\bar{R}$ LCL = centre - 2.66 × m $\bar{R}$

Example: centre 2400 ms, m $\bar{R}$ 150 ms → UCL 2799 ms, LCL 2001 ms.

A dot outside the band turns the Speed light to **look**: a special cause to investigate. It is **never a failure**.

Good news reads as good news

- A fix on main (an accessibility violation or a console error gone) is a **decision**, shown in orange beside the traffic lights, never on them.
- It reads *"good news, never a failure"*; a claim can note that the fix was meant.
- On 16 Oct the catalogue's console error, present in 17.0.0, showed as **fixed on main**.

Post-deploy and countermeasures

- **Release timeline:** post-deploy reads only the runs since the newest deploy, names the release and when a red began. An older rollback is labelled *from an earlier release*.
- **Countermeasures you can check:** each 5 Whys says where the fix is **in place** and what a release must show (**check**). It is verified only by a real release's reading, never by a feeling.
- The tile splits them: built and waiting on a release, not built, overdue, verified.

Why it passes or fails

The A3 states it in plain words, from the data:

- **What** it compared, and when.
- **The Gate**: every difference claimed, or not; and whether the harness had the right to fail that night.
- **The gap**: how much the claims and PRs explain, and what is left.
- **What to look at**: the vital few, the charts outside their limits, the courses that broke.

Advisory: the A3 never changes the Gate, the score, a verdict or an exit code. It makes the decision informed.

Where to read it

- Tonight's A3: tutors-sdk.github.io/tutors-release-harness/a3.html
- Rebuilt after the nightly A/A and Main to RC, with backup starts so it is ready by morning.
- Printable on A3 landscape; the same numbers are in `a3.json`.

The lab in this topic walks through one, top to bottom.