

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

The board minutes were taken from the filing cabinet of Quartermaine & Associates during the overnight window between 01:45 and 04:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Gemma (legal counsel), Sora (facilities coordinator), Gunnar (IT administrator), Kai (CFO), Aurora (records clerk), Ezra (security officer), Nadia (senior engineer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the board minutes?

1. Sora their video call ended at 23:20 according to the system.
2. Gunnar has familiarity with the security routing and administrator credentials – initial suspicion was high.
3. However: Gunnar is cleared – but security badge log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
4. Aurora has only clearance to the restricted archive of the four requirements.
5. Ezra had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
6. Initial assumption pointed to Kai because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
7. Kai lacks administrator credentials – security audit confirms.
8. But: however the unsecured service entrance doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
9. Ezra has administrator credentials and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 Gemma was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
- 11 Sora has all four requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, administrator credentials, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:45 and 04:30).

CASE 02

A production database was extracted from the war room of Solstice Labs during the overnight window between 00:30 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Hiroshi (support lead), Bram (product manager), Aleksandr (CTO), Mateo (data scientist), Ulla (senior engineer), Klaus (intern), Gisela (DevOps lead), Kalinda (security analyst). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the production database?

1. Initial assumption pointed to Ulla because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
2. Klaus has elevated system privileges and administrator credentials and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
3. Bram was officially signed out at 22:00 via the front-desk register.
4. Mateo's witness colleague shows them off-site the entire window.
5. Hiroshi's VPN session log shows them off-site the entire window.
6. However: Gisela is cleared – but MFA token log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
7. But: however elevator override log records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:35.
8. The data theft involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.
9. Klaus was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
- 10 Gisela clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
- 11 Kalinda was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
- 12 Four independent requirements: elevated system privileges, administrator credentials, presence between 00:30 and 04:15, and knowledge of the seal serial pattern.

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CASE 03

An equipment manifest was taken from the trophy display case of Helix Sports Complex during the overnight window between 02:45 and 06:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Dimitri (team statistician), Oren (assistant coach), Juno (referee), Eira (star player), Bram (facilities manager), Joaquin (head coach), Meriel (athletic trainer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the equipment manifest?

1. Oren lacks a master key issued only to senior staff – confirmed by personnel records.
2. The theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.
3. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Juno.
4. However: Dimitri is cleared – but their locker code was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
5. Bram has clean-room or vault clearance and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
6. Meriel had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
7. Dimitri had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
8. But: however the pedestrian-door sensor shows their vehicle remained in the lot until well after 02:45.
9. Four independent requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:45 and 06:30, and knowledge of the seal serial pattern.
- 10 Initial assumption pointed to Oren because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
- 11 Dimitri has a master key issued only to senior staff and knowledge of the seal serial pattern and clean-room or vault clearance – initial suspicion was high.

CASE 04

An archive password log was taken from the periodicals room of Northgate Library during the overnight window between 00:00 and 04:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Jules (cataloger), Bao (rare-books curator), Isolde (visiting scholar), Zoltan (archivist), Yara (research assistant), Sigrid (custodian), Quentin (volunteer), Akira (intern). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the archive password log?

1. Zoltan has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, administrator credentials, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:00 and 04:00).
2. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Zoltan.
3. However: Quentin is cleared – but their vault key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
4. Isolde lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
5. Bao had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
6. Yara had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
7. However: Yara is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
8. Akira lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
9. Jules lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
- 10 Yara has administrator credentials and specialized engineering certification and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 05

A strategy deck was taken from the data center of Northgate Partners during the overnight window between 02:45 and 06:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Jacinta (facilities coordinator), Etienne (legal counsel), Ezra (IT administrator), Kalisa (security officer), Omari (intern), Ishaan (CFO), Hattie (records clerk), Zoltan (senior engineer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the strategy deck?

1. The corporate theft involved an encryption signature tied to the internal training network.
2. Ezra's elevator log shows them off-site the entire window.
3. Kalisa has possession of the specific tool used and advanced restoration training and administrator credentials – initial suspicion was high.
4. The trace at the scene (an encryption signature tied to the internal training network) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Hattie.
5. Omari lacks administrator credentials – security audit confirms.
6. However: Etienne is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
7. However: Ishaan is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
8. Hattie has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, administrator credentials, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:45 and 06:15).
9. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, administrator credentials, presence between 02:45 and 06:15, and possession of the specific tool used.
- 10 Etienne filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.

CASE 06

An exam answer key was taken from the library archive of Westbrook Academy during the overnight window between 00:15 and 04:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Wilder (teacher), Hakim (coach), Bayan (librarian), Nikolai (substitute teacher), Ilya (secretary), Arjun (janitor), Leila (department head). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the exam answer key?

1. However: Arjun is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
2. Arjun filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
3. Four independent requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, after-hours building access, presence between 00:15 and 04:30, and possession of the specific tool used.
4. But: however the unsecured side stairwell doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
5. Bayan has possession of the specific tool used and a master key issued only to senior staff – initial suspicion was high.
6. However: Leila is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
7. Leila had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
8. Arjun has possession of the specific tool used and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
9. The theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
- 10 Hakim's door sensor shows them off-site the entire window.
- 11 Wilder was officially signed out at 22:35 via the front-desk register.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

Solve before peeking. Correct suspect and key reasoning steps below.

Case 01 F) Sora

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, administrator credentials, presence between 01:45 and 04:30, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Gemma appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 B) Bram

- ☒ Four requirements (elevated system privileges, administrator credentials, presence between 00:30 and 04:15, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Kalinda appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 B) Juno

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:45 and 06:30, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Bram appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 D) Zoltan

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, administrator credentials, presence between 00:00 and 04:00, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Quentin appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 A) Hattie

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, administrator credentials, presence between 02:45 and 06:15, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Ishaan appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 undefined) Wilder

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, after-hours building access, presence between 00:15 and 04:30, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Bayan appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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