

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A science project was taken from the records office of Westbrook Academy during the overnight window between 02:15 and 05:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Hasan (teacher), Aaliyah (student council president), Frida (department head), Olive (principal), Mikael (janitor), Faye (librarian), Mira (secretary). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the science project?

1. Aaliyah has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:15 and 05:30).
2. Olive has authorization to handle the item and clean-room or vault clearance – initial suspicion was high.
3. The theft involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.
4. However: Frida is cleared – but hallway camera places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
5. Hasan has only advanced restoration training of the four requirements.
6. Faye lacks clean-room or vault clearance – security audit confirms.
7. Frida clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
8. Initial assumption pointed to Frida because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
9. Mikael has clean-room or vault clearance and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
10. Mira has only authorization to handle the item of the four requirements.
11. The trace at the scene (a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Aaliyah.

CASE 02

A test specimen was swapped from the PI office of Nordic Bio during the overnight window between 01:45 and 05:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Wren (graduate student), Suri (safety officer), Talia (operations manager), Fenella (undergraduate volunteer), Bao (clinical coordinator), Damaris (equipment manager), Aaliyah (lab technician), Quentin (visiting scientist). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who swapped the test specimen?

1. The sample tampering involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.
2. However: Bao is cleared – but their biohazard clearance was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
3. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Damaris.
4. Quentin lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
5. However: Wren is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
6. But: however pedestrian-door sensor records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:55.
7. Bao has advanced restoration training and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
8. Damaris has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, after-hours building access, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:45 and 05:15).
9. Talia has only knowledge of the seal serial pattern of the four requirements.

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CASE 03

A Vermeer sketch was taken from the restoration lab of Helix Modern Art during the overnight window between 00:00 and 03:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Yusuf (tour guide), Amari (archivist), Octavia (security guard), Enzo (art restorer), Eitan (exhibition designer), Dimah (gift shop manager), Arjun (docent), Kasper (night security). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the Vermeer sketch?

1. Dimah lacks a master key issued only to senior staff – confirmed by personnel records.
2. However: Eitan is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
3. Arjun had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
4. However: Enzo is cleared – but their elevator access was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
5. The theft involved an encryption signature tied to the internal training network.
6. However: Arjun is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
7. Arjun has knowledge of the seal serial pattern and a master key issued only to senior staff – initial suspicion was high.
8. Enzo was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
9. Kasper lacks a master key issued only to senior staff – confirmed by personnel records.
- 10 Octavia has only knowledge of the seal serial pattern of the four requirements.
- 11 Yusuf has all four requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, administrator credentials, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:00 and 03:30).

CASE 04

A medieval folio was taken from the microfilm area of Aldermarsh Library during the overnight window between 01:15 and 05:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Leila (rare-books curator), Juno (custodian), Nikolai (cataloger), Tariq (archivist), Priya (volunteer), Caelan (intern), Dario (reference librarian). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the medieval folio?

1. Caelan has possession of the specific tool used and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
2. Juno lacks clean-room or vault clearance – security audit confirms.
3. Priya claims to have exited the building at 22:05 – the official badge log confirms this.
4. However: Dario is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
5. Initial assumption pointed to Nikolai because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
6. Nikolai has only possession of the specific tool used of the four requirements.
7. But: however the unsecured service entrance doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
8. The theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.
9. However: Caelan is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
- 10 Priya has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:15 and 05:30).

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CASE 05

A bronze sculpture was taken from the archive room of Pemberton Wing during the overnight window between 01:45 and 04:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Omari (janitor), Ishaan (curator), Iolanthe (exhibition designer), Meriel (security guard), Tarek (archivist), Katarina (art restorer), Olive (gift shop manager). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the bronze sculpture?

1. Initial assumption pointed to Ishaan because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
2. Omari has a verified relationship with the donor and clearance to the restricted archive – initial suspicion was high.
3. The theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.
4. However: Iolanthe is cleared – but badge swipe log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
5. Olive has clearance to the restricted archive and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
6. Meriel has only clearance to the restricted archive of the four requirements.
7. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Tarek.
8. Iolanthe had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
9. Omari had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
- 10 However: Omari is cleared – but witness testimony places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
- 11 Iolanthe has a verified relationship with the donor and clearance to the restricted archive and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.

CASE 06

The patient records were taken from the medication closet of Northgate Memorial during the overnight window between 01:45 and 04:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Ilya (medical resident), Kenji (head nurse), Ulla (janitor), Cassia (technician), Cyrus (attending physician), Meriel (pharmacist), Thora (social worker). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the patient records?

1. Ulla has specialized engineering certification and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
2. However: Cassia is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
3. The trace at the scene (an encryption signature tied to the internal training network) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Cyrus.
4. Ilya has only specialized engineering certification of the four requirements.
5. Ulla filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
6. But: however DHCP log records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:30.
7. The theft involved an encryption signature tied to the internal training network.
8. Cyrus has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, documented hands-on history with the item, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:45 and 04:00).
9. Kenji lacks documented hands-on history with the item – security audit confirms.
- 10 Cyrus was officially signed out at 23:30 via the front-desk register.
- 11 Initial assumption pointed to Meriel because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 E) Aaliyah

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:15 and 05:30, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Olive appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 C) Damaris

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, after-hours building access, presence between 01:45 and 05:15, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Bao appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 undefined) Yusuf

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, administrator credentials, presence between 00:00 and 03:30, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Arjun appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 D) Priya

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 01:15 and 05:30, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Caelan appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 A) Tarek

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:45 and 04:45, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Iolanthe appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 B) Cyrus

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 01:45 and 04:00, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
- ☒ Cassia appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.