

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A referee's notebook was taken from the equipment room of Saint-Clair Field House during the overnight window between 02:15 and 06:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Akira (facilities manager), Aiko (star player), Meriel (athletic trainer), Joaquin (team statistician), Damaris (head coach), Helena (referee), Vera (assistant coach). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the referee's notebook?

1. Vera has authorization to handle the item and a verified relationship with the donor and a master key issued only to senior staff – initial suspicion was high.
2. Akira their video call ended at 23:35 according to the system.
3. Meriel lacks a master key issued only to senior staff – confirmed by personnel records.
4. Damaris has a master key issued only to senior staff and authorization to handle the item and a verified relationship with the donor – initial suspicion was high.
5. The trace at the scene (a seal cut with a serial pattern from a specific supply) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Akira.
6. Aiko lacks a verified relationship with the donor – security audit confirms.
7. Initial assumption pointed to Aiko because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
8. However: Vera is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
9. However: Damaris is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
- 10 The theft involved a seal cut with a serial pattern from a specific supply.
- 11 Helena's witness teammate shows them off-site the entire window.

CASE 02

A reference card index was taken from the reading room of Quartermaine Archive during the overnight window between 02:45 and 06:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Noor (intern), Klaus (reference librarian), Wilder (visiting scholar), Mateo (rare-books curator), Kalinda (archivist), Sora (research assistant), Yusuf (volunteer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the reference card index?

1. However: Mateo is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
2. Mateo was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
3. Initial assumption pointed to Kalinda because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
4. Yusuf clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
5. Four independent requirements: elevated system privileges, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:45 and 06:00, and familiarity with the security routing.
6. The trace at the scene (a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Klaus.
7. Klaus claims to have exited the building at 22:00 – the official badge log confirms this.
8. But: however the elevator override log shows their vehicle remained in the lot until well after 02:45.
9. Yusuf has clean-room or vault clearance and elevated system privileges and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 Noor lacks elevated system privileges – confirmed by personnel records.

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CASE 03

A sealed parts shipment was taken from the tool crib of Helix Restoration during the overnight window between 01:00 and 05:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Nadia (electrician), Arjun (shop manager), Ezra (apprentice), Zinnia (quality inspector), Cyrus (customer service rep), Hiroshi (machinist), Cassia (painter). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the sealed parts shipment?

1. Cyrus filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
2. Cassia has knowledge of the seal serial pattern and clean-room or vault clearance and clearance to the restricted archive – initial suspicion was high.
3. Cyrus has clean-room or vault clearance and clearance to the restricted archive and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
4. Cassia clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
5. The theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
6. Ezra lacks clearance to the restricted archive – confirmed by personnel records.
7. Initial assumption pointed to Cyrus because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
8. But: however the DHCP log shows their vehicle remained in the lot until well after 01:00.
9. Zinnia has knowledge of the seal serial pattern and clearance to the restricted archive and clean-room or vault clearance – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 Nadia their video call ended at 23:35 according to the system.
- 11 Zinnia had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
- 12 Nadia has all four requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, clean-room or vault clearance, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:00 and 05:30).

CASE 04

A calibration gauge was taken from the main shop floor of Helix Restoration during the overnight window between 02:30 and 06:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Omari (electrician), Renata (quality inspector), Darya (parts clerk), Elspeth (master mechanic), Zinnia (customer service rep), Mateo (machinist), Jian (apprentice), Mei (shop manager). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the calibration gauge?

1. Jian has clearance to the restricted archive and clean-room or vault clearance – initial suspicion was high.
2. Four independent requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:30 and 06:30, and possession of the specific tool used.
3. Jian filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
4. Mateo their video call ended at 23:15 according to the system.
5. Mateo has all four requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, clean-room or vault clearance, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:30 and 06:30).
6. Initial assumption pointed to Darya because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
7. Mei's shop camera shows them off-site the entire window.
8. However: Jian is cleared – but time-clock log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
9. However: Zinnia is cleared – but time-clock log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
- 10 The theft involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.

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CASE 05

An original land deed was taken from the conservation room of Helix Heritage Foundation during the overnight window between 02:15 and 05:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Arjun (clerk), Zoltan (volunteer), Eitan (head archivist), Mei (conservation specialist), Kalisa (genealogist), Jacinta (administrator), Etienne (intern), Finnegan (researcher). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the original land deed?

1. However: Finnegan is cleared – but their vault key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
2. Jacinta lacks a verified relationship with the donor – security audit confirms.
3. However: Kalisa is cleared – but archive log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
4. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Mei.
5. Finnegan was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
6. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 02:15 and 05:00, and knowledge of the seal serial pattern.
7. Kalisa has a verified relationship with the donor and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
8. Initial assumption pointed to Etienne because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
9. Finnegan has knowledge of the seal serial pattern and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 However: Etienne is cleared – but their vault key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.

CASE 06

A SSL certificate was extracted from the DevOps room of Meridian Data during the overnight window between 01:00 and 04:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Ishaan (site-reliability engineer), Zinnia (security analyst), Alejandro (product manager), Bao (data scientist), Nizar (contractor), Galina (support lead), Faye (senior engineer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the SSL certificate?

1. Faye had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
2. Bao has administrator credentials and familiarity with the security routing and elevated system privileges – initial suspicion was high.
3. Galina filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
4. Nizar has all four requirements: elevated system privileges, administrator credentials, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:00 and 04:30).
5. But: however the unsecured pedestrian door doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
6. Galina has elevated system privileges and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
7. Faye has elevated system privileges and administrator credentials – initial suspicion was high.
8. Alejandro lacks administrator credentials – security audit confirms.
9. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Nizar.
- 10 However: Galina is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
- 11 The data theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 B) Akira

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 02:15 and 06:15, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Joaquin appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 A) Klaus

- ☒ Four requirements (elevated system privileges, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:45 and 06:00, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Mateo appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 E) Nadia

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 01:00 and 05:30, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Cassia appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 F) Mateo

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:30 and 06:30, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Renata appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 C) Mei

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 02:15 and 05:00, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Etienne appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 D) Nizar

- ☒ Four requirements (elevated system privileges, administrator credentials, presence between 01:00 and 04:30, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
- ☒ Bao appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.