

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A laptop was taken from the principal's office of Hawthorne Day School during the overnight window between 02:30 and 06:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Noor (department head), Wilder (principal), Gunnar (teacher), Tomas (student council president), Tariq (librarian), Quincy (substitute teacher), Tarek (coach), Selene (school counselor). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the laptop?

1. Tomas had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
2. Tomas has after-hours building access and knowledge of the seal serial pattern and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
3. Tariq has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, after-hours building access, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:30 and 06:15).
4. Gunnar lacks after-hours building access – security audit confirms.
5. Wilder has advanced restoration training and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
6. Tarek has advanced restoration training and after-hours building access and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
7. Wilder was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
8. Quincy has only knowledge of the seal serial pattern of the four requirements.
9. However: Tomas is cleared – but their staff key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
- 10 But: however the unsecured service entrance doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
- 11 Noor lacks after-hours building access – security audit confirms.

CASE 02

A genealogy register was taken from the administrator office of City Records Office during the overnight window between 01:00 and 05:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Ronan (records administrator), Noor (genealogist), Nikolai (volunteer), Gunnar (researcher), Aleksandr (clerk), Bram (head archivist), Fenella (intern), Joaquin (security officer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the genealogy register?

1. Joaquin filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
2. Nikolai lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
3. The trace at the scene (a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Ronan.
4. Noor lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
5. Ronan was officially signed out at 22:05 via the front-desk register.
6. Gunnar clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
7. However: Gunnar is cleared – but their research-room pass was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
8. Gunnar has specialized engineering certification and possession of the specific tool used and clean-room or vault clearance – initial suspicion was high.
9. The theft involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.
- 10 Ronan has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, clean-room or vault clearance, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:00 and 05:45).
- 11 Joaquin has possession of the specific tool used and clean-room or vault clearance and specialized engineering certification – initial suspicion was high.

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CASE 03

A sports trophy was taken from the exam preparation room of Hawthorne Day School during the overnight window between 01:45 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Yusuf (teacher), Kalinda (librarian), Eleni (principal), Tariq (coach), Hattie (student council president), Diallo (secretary), Fenella (department head), Adrian (substitute teacher). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the sports trophy?

1. However: Diallo is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
2. Kalinda has knowledge of the seal serial pattern and specialized engineering certification and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
3. Diallo has specialized engineering certification and after-hours building access and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
4. However: Eleni is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
5. Diallo clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
6. However: Kalinda is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
7. Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 01:45 and 04:15, and knowledge of the seal serial pattern.
8. Fenella's door sensor shows them off-site the entire window.
9. Tariq's attendance log shows them off-site the entire window.
- 10 Yusuf has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:45 and 04:15).

CASE 04

A team trophy was taken from the training facility of Northgate Athletic Club during the overnight window between 02:15 and 06:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Zoltan (rookie player), Jacinta (referee), Florian (equipment manager), Leila (athletic trainer), Nadia (team captain), Kai (facilities manager), Ines (head coach), Pavel (team statistician). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the team trophy?

1. However: Pavel is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
2. Nadia their video call ended at 22:35 according to the system.
3. Leila has after-hours building access and a master key issued only to senior staff – initial suspicion was high.
4. However: Leila is cleared – but witness teammate places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
5. Florian lacks after-hours building access – security audit confirms.
6. Jacinta lacks a master key issued only to senior staff – confirmed by personnel records.
7. Initial assumption pointed to Kai because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
8. Pavel has familiarity with the security routing and a master key issued only to senior staff and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
9. Four independent requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, after-hours building access, presence between 02:15 and 06:15, and familiarity with the security routing.
- 10 Pavel clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 05

A signed manuscript was taken from the restoration lab of Brookfield Art Institute during the overnight window between 00:00 and 03:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Sora (night security), Ulla (curator), Hakim (security guard), Quentin (gift shop manager), Kalisa (archivist), Marisol (tour guide), Cassia (docent). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the signed manuscript?

1. However: Ulla is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
2. Cassia had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
3. Kalisa was officially signed out at 22:30 via the front-desk register.
4. Marisol has only authorization to handle the item of the four requirements.
5. Sora lacks elevated system privileges – confirmed by personnel records.
6. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Kalisa.
7. Four independent requirements: elevated system privileges, after-hours building access, presence between 00:00 and 03:15, and authorization to handle the item.
8. Ulla has authorization to handle the item and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
9. However: Hakim is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
- 10 Initial assumption pointed to Hakim because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
- 11 The theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.

CASE 06

A cell culture was swapped from the centrifuge bay of Coriolis Institute during the overnight window between 00:30 and 03:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Yvonne (postdoctoral researcher), Gemma (lab technician), Nikolai (equipment manager), Bram (graduate student), Zoltan (clinical coordinator), Eira (undergraduate volunteer), Penelope (visiting scientist), Octavia (principal investigator). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who swapped the cell culture?

1. Octavia clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
2. Nikolai has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:30 and 03:45).
3. Zoltan's witness sighting shows them off-site the entire window.
4. Yvonne was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
5. However: Yvonne is cleared – but their biohazard clearance was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
6. But: however the VPN session record shows their vehicle remained in the lot until well after 00:30.
7. Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 00:30 and 03:45, and possession of the specific tool used.
8. However: Penelope is cleared – but their clean-room access was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
9. Bram lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
- 10 Gemma lacks a verified relationship with the donor – security audit confirms.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 undefined) Tariq

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, after-hours building access, presence between 02:30 and 06:15, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Tomas appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 F) Ronan

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 01:00 and 05:45, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Gunnar appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 D) Yusuf

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 01:45 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 04 undefined) Nadia

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, after-hours building access, presence between 02:15 and 06:15, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Kai appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 E) Kalisa

- ☒ Four requirements (elevated system privileges, after-hours building access, presence between 00:00 and 03:15, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Hakim appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 F) Nikolai

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 00:30 and 03:45, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Octavia appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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