

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A grading book was taken from the principal's office of Northgate Academy during the overnight window between 00:15 and 04:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Mira (secretary), Elspeth (department head), Tomas (janitor), Klaus (teacher), Amelia (school counselor), Ilya (librarian), Enzo (principal), Kai (substitute teacher). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the grading book?

1. However: Enzo is cleared – but keycard log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
2. Mira lacks documented hands-on history with the item – security audit confirms.
3. But: however the elevator override log shows their vehicle remained in the lot until well after 00:15.
4. Klaus has all four requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, documented hands-on history with the item, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:15 and 04:30).
5. Enzo clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
6. Enzo has knowledge of the seal serial pattern and documented hands-on history with the item – initial suspicion was high.
7. Amelia has clearance to the restricted archive and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
8. Amelia was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
9. 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 Klaus.
- 10 Tomas lacks clearance to the restricted archive – confirmed by personnel records.

CASE 02

A head chef's knife set was taken from the dining floor of Helix Kitchen during the overnight window between 01:15 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Wilder (pastry chef), Indira (dishwasher), Florian (line cook), Rosalind (sommelier), Quentin (manager), Dimitri (sous chef), Iolanthe (server). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the head chef's knife set?

1. Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:15 and 04:15, and familiarity with the security routing.
2. Florian lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
3. However: Dimitri is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
4. Indira filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
5. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Wilder.
6. Iolanthe's witness server shows them off-site the entire window.
7. Wilder has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:15 and 04:15).
8. The theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
9. Initial assumption pointed to Quentin because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
- 10 Rosalind was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.

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CASE 03

The encryption keys were extracted from the DevOps room of Solstice Labs during the overnight window between 01:15 and 05:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Ulla (site-reliability engineer), Alejandro (senior engineer), Kalinda (support lead), Marisol (contractor), Bayan (intern), Arjun (DevOps lead), Mei (CTO), Oren (product manager). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the encryption keys?

1. Kalinda has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:15 and 05:00).
2. But: however elevator override log records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 2:25.
3. Arjun had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
4. Bayan filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
5. Arjun has possession of the specific tool used and after-hours building access and specialized engineering certification – initial suspicion was high.
6. However: Bayan is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
7. The trace at the scene (a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Kalinda.
8. The data theft involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.
9. Marisol has after-hours building access and specialized engineering certification and possession of the specific tool used – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 However: Arjun is cleared – but SSH authentication log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.

CASE 04

A historical photograph was taken from the restricted reading room of Northgate Estate Archive during the overnight window between 02:45 and 05:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Ula (researcher), Kai (administrator), Ginevra (conservation specialist), Nikolai (records administrator), Joren (head archivist), Daphne (intern), Kenji (clerk), Aleksandr (genealogist). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the historical photograph?

1. However: Kenji is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
2. Kenji has administrator credentials and elevated system privileges – initial suspicion was high.
3. Nikolai clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
4. However: Nikolai is cleared – but their admin code was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
5. Joren has all four requirements: elevated system privileges, administrator credentials, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:45 and 05:15).
6. Kenji filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
7. Daphne has possession of the specific tool used and administrator credentials – initial suspicion was high.
8. Ula has only administrator credentials of the four requirements.
9. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Joren.
- 10 Initial assumption pointed to Ula because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.

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CASE 05

An archive password log was taken from the staff workroom of Aldermarsh Library during the overnight window between 01:45 and 05:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Dimah (rare-books curator), Tarek (reference librarian), Stellan (cataloger), Arjun (intern), Magnus (archivist), Anand (custodian), Lana (research assistant), Cassia (visiting scholar). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the archive password log?

1. Tarek claims to have exited the building at 23:00 – the official badge log confirms this.
2. However: Stellan is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
3. Stellan has a master key issued only to senior staff and a verified relationship with the donor and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
4. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Tarek.
5. But: however the unsecured side stairwell doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
6. The theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
7. Initial assumption pointed to Lana because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
8. Magnus has a master key issued only to senior staff and knowledge of the seal serial pattern and a verified relationship with the donor – initial suspicion was high.
9. Dimah has a master key issued only to senior staff and a verified relationship with the donor – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 Cassia lacks a master key issued only to senior staff – confirmed by personnel records.
- 11 Stellan filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.

CASE 06

A prototype compound was swapped from the sample storage of Aldermarsh Laboratory during the overnight window between 01:00 and 05:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Ravi (undergraduate volunteer), Magnus (clinical coordinator), Ulla (lab technician), Gisela (operations manager), Ula (visiting scientist), Anand (principal investigator), Diallo (graduate student), Florian (equipment manager). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who swapped the prototype compound?

1. However: Magnus is cleared – but their freezer key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
2. The sample tampering involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
3. Ulla clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
4. Gisela has only specialized engineering certification of the four requirements.
5. Ravi clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
6. Ravi has familiarity with the security routing and clean-room or vault clearance – initial suspicion was high.
7. Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 01:00 and 05:45, and familiarity with the security routing.
8. Diallo has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, clean-room or vault clearance, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:00 and 05:45).
9. Initial assumption pointed to Gisela 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 C) Klaus

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:15 and 04:30, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Enzo appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 B) Wilder

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:15 and 04:15, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Rosalind appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 C) Kalinda

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 01:15 and 05:00, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Marisol appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 E) Joren

- ☒ Four requirements (elevated system privileges, administrator credentials, presence between 02:45 and 05:15, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Daphne appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 F) Tarek

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:45 and 05:45, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Dimah appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 F) Diallo

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 01:00 and 05:45, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Ulla appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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