

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A sealed parts shipment was taken from the manager's office of Helix Restoration during the overnight window between 00:30 and 03:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Sigrid (electrician), Sora (quality inspector), Ilya (master mechanic), Theo (shop manager), Zara (apprentice), Darya (parts clerk), Helena (painter), Marisol (welder). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the sealed parts shipment?

1. Zara filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
2. Ilya has familiarity with the security routing and a verified relationship with the donor – initial suspicion was high.
3. Ilya was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
4. But: however the unsecured pedestrian door doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
5. Helena's tool-checkout log shows them off-site the entire window.
6. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 00:30 and 03:45, and familiarity with the security routing.
7. The theft involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.
8. However: Sora is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
9. Initial assumption pointed to Helena because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
- 10 However: Ilya is cleared – but their parts-room code was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
- 11 Darya has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:30 and 03:45).

CASE 02

A Vermeer sketch was taken from the loading dock of Pemberton Wing during the overnight window between 00:30 and 03:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Theo (security guard), Hiroshi (night security), Damaris (janitor), Lucia (archivist), Elspeth (exhibition designer), Zephyr (tour guide), Magnus (art restorer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the Vermeer sketch?

1. Lucia has only familiarity with the security routing of the four requirements.
2. Damaris's badge swipe log shows them off-site the entire window.
3. Magnus has after-hours building access and a master key issued only to senior staff and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
4. However: Elspeth is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
5. However: Theo is cleared – but their vault combination was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
6. Elspeth has after-hours building access and familiarity with the security routing and a master key issued only to senior staff – initial suspicion was high.
7. The theft involved an encryption signature tied to the internal training network.
8. Theo has after-hours building access and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
9. The trace at the scene (an encryption signature tied to the internal training network) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Hiroshi.
- 10 However: Magnus is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.

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CASE 03

The director's notes were taken from the costume room of The Aldermarsh Theatre during the overnight window between 02:00 and 05:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Lana (stage manager), Priya (lighting tech), Mikael (understudy), Tariq (costume designer), Iolanthe (musical director), Zoltan (lead actor), Bram (prop master), Olive (director). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the director's notes?

1. Iolanthe lacks after-hours building access – security audit confirms.
2. Zoltan has after-hours building access and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
3. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Priya.
4. Olive has only after-hours building access of the four requirements.
5. Priya claims to have exited the building at 22:05 – the official badge log confirms this.
6. Tariq clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
7. But: however the parking-lot camera shows their vehicle remained in the lot until well after 02:00.
8. Tariq has authorization to handle the item and after-hours building access and specialized engineering certification – initial suspicion was high.
9. Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 02:00 and 05:45, and authorization to handle the item.
- 10 Bram has only after-hours building access of the four requirements.
- 11 Initial assumption pointed to Iolanthe because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
- 12 Mikael has authorization to handle the item and specialized engineering certification – initial suspicion was high.

CASE 04

The student transcripts were taken from the staff bathroom of Brierfield Prep during the overnight window between 00:00 and 03:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Joaquin (librarian), Katarina (substitute teacher), Hasan (teacher), Enzo (secretary), Ulla (coach), Kenji (department head), Fariha (janitor), Bjorn (principal). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the student transcripts?

1. The theft involved a seal cut with a serial pattern from a specific supply.
2. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:00 and 03:15, and authorization to handle the item.
3. Enzo lacks documented hands-on history with the item – security audit confirms.
4. Fariha filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
5. Joaquin lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
6. Katarina lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
7. Kenji had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
8. Fariha has documented hands-on history with the item and advanced restoration training and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
9. Ulla lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
- 10 But: however the unsecured pedestrian door doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
- 11 Hasan was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
- 12 Bjorn was officially signed out at 23:00 via the front-desk register.
- 13 However: Kenji is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.

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CASE 05

A register cash was taken from the walk-in cooler of Aldermarsh Bistro during the overnight window between 01:15 and 05:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Juno (line cook), Arjun (manager), Tess (sous chef), Marisol (host), Eleni (dishwasher), Xanthe (bartender), Vera (head chef), Yusuf (pastry chef). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the register cash?

1. Marisol filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
 2. The theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
 3. However: Marisol is cleared – but their master key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
 4. Arjun filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
 5. Four independent requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, after-hours building access, presence between 01:15 and 05:30, and familiarity with the security routing.
 6. Arjun has after-hours building access and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
 7. However: Yusuf is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
 8. However: Arjun is cleared – but time-clock record places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
 9. Tess was officially signed out at 22:00 via the front-desk register.
 - 10 Eleni has only familiarity with the security routing of the four requirements.
 - 11 Juno has only clearance to the restricted archive of the four requirements.
 - 12 Xanthe has only after-hours building access of the four requirements.
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CASE 06

A glass vase was taken from the climate-controlled vault of Helix Modern Art during the overnight window between 02:30 and 05:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Kiran (art restorer), Saoirse (curator), Sami (docent), Quentin (janitor), Penelope (exhibition designer), Tomas (tour guide), Suri (gift shop manager). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the glass vase?

1. Quentin has all four requirements: elevated system privileges, documented hands-on history with the item, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:30 and 05:00).
2. Tomas was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
3. Quentin claims to have exited the building at 23:50 – the official badge log confirms this.
4. Sami clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
5. Sami has familiarity with the security routing and documented hands-on history with the item and elevated system privileges – initial suspicion was high.
6. However: Sami is cleared – but security camera places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
7. Saoirse's motion sensor shows them off-site the entire window.
8. Suri had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
9. Four independent requirements: elevated system privileges, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 02:30 and 05:00, and familiarity with the security routing.
- 10 Tomas has documented hands-on history with the item and familiarity with the security routing and elevated system privileges – initial suspicion was high.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 A) Darya

- ☑ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 00:30 and 03:45, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☑ Ilya appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 B) Hiroshi

- ☑ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, after-hours building access, presence between 00:30 and 03:15, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☑ Theo appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 A) Priya

- ☑ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 02:00 and 05:45, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☑ Mikael appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 A) Bjorn

- ☑ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:00 and 03:15, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☑ Hasan appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 D) Tess

- ☑ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, after-hours building access, presence between 01:15 and 05:30, familiarity with the security routing) 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 06 A) Quentin

- ☑ Four requirements (elevated system privileges, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 02:30 and 05:00, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
- ☑ Suri appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.