

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A principal's personal file was taken from the computer lab of Hawthorne Day School during the overnight window between 00:30 and 03:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Pavel (librarian), Ulla (janitor), Akhil (teacher), Saoirse (school counselor), Cedric (coach), Daphne (department head), Anand (secretary). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the principal's personal file?

1. 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 Pavel.
2. Daphne's door sensor shows them off-site the entire window.
3. Ulla had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
4. However: Saoirse is cleared – but their staff key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
5. Ulla has documented hands-on history with the item and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
6. Pavel has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, documented hands-on history with the item, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:30 and 03:45).
7. Cedric lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
8. Saoirse filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
9. However: Ulla is cleared – but their keypad code was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
- 10 Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:30 and 03:45, and knowledge of the seal serial pattern.

CASE 02

An enzyme batch was swapped from the sample storage of Caelum Labs during the overnight window between 01:15 and 05:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Ginevra (graduate student), Theo (operations manager), Darya (postdoctoral researcher), Klaus (equipment manager), Octavia (principal investigator), Vera (clinical coordinator), Mauro (lab technician), Dimitri (safety officer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who swapped the enzyme batch?

1. Dimitri has all four requirements: elevated system privileges, after-hours building access, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:15 and 05:15).
2. Mauro lacks elevated system privileges – confirmed by personnel records.
3. However: Klaus is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
4. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Dimitri.
5. Ginevra has elevated system privileges and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
6. Klaus was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
7. Theo lacks after-hours building access – security audit confirms.
8. Four independent requirements: elevated system privileges, after-hours building access, presence between 01:15 and 05:15, and knowledge of the seal serial pattern.
9. Initial assumption pointed to Octavia because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.

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CASE 03

A glass vase was taken from the prep workshop of Argent Gallery during the overnight window between 01:45 and 05:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Adrian (docent), Cassia (night security), Aiko (art restorer), Magnus (gift shop manager), Faye (archivist), Iolanthe (janitor), Kalisa (security guard). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the glass vase?

1. Iolanthe has only familiarity with the security routing of the four requirements.
2. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Kalisa.
3. Magnus has familiarity with the security routing and advanced restoration training and administrator credentials – initial suspicion was high.
4. Initial assumption pointed to Iolanthe because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
5. Magnus filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
6. Faye's door sensor shows them off-site the entire window.
7. The theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.
8. But: however the unsecured service entrance doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
9. However: Adrian is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
- 10 Aiko has only familiarity with the security routing of the four requirements.
- 11 Adrian has advanced restoration training and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
- 12 Kalisa claims to have exited the building at 23:45 – the official badge log confirms this.

CASE 04

A formula draft was swapped from the sample storage of Pemberton Pharmaceuticals during the overnight window between 02:00 and 06:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Polina (lab technician), Priya (principal investigator), Ines (clinical coordinator), Hasan (visiting scientist), Amelia (operations manager), Aaliyah (safety officer), Tess (graduate student). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who swapped the formula draft?

1. Amelia has all four requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, a verified relationship with the donor, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:00 and 06:00).
2. Aaliyah has possession of the specific tool used and clearance to the restricted archive – initial suspicion was high.
3. Polina's freezer access log shows them off-site the entire window.
4. Four independent requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 02:00 and 06:00, and possession of the specific tool used.
5. Initial assumption pointed to Ines because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
6. Ines has possession of the specific tool used and clearance to the restricted archive and a verified relationship with the donor – initial suspicion was high.
7. However: Ines is cleared – but their lab badge was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
8. However: Aaliyah is cleared – but their clean-room access was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
9. Ines had financial pressure – appears to have motive.

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 05

A game-day playbook was taken from the coach's office of Aldermarsh Arena during the overnight window between 02:00 and 05:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Kenji (equipment manager), Jules (facilities manager), Ezra (team captain), Quentin (rookie player), Sora (referee), Jacinta (star player), Nadia (assistant coach). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the game-day playbook?

1. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Jules.
2. However: Kenji is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
3. However: Ezra is cleared – but their locker code was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
4. However: Jacinta is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
5. Initial assumption pointed to Quentin because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
6. Jules their video call ended at 22:05 according to the system.
7. Jacinta has specialized engineering certification and possession of the specific tool used – initial suspicion was high.
8. Nadia lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
9. Sora has only possession of the specific tool used of the four requirements.
- 10 The theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.
- 11 Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:00 and 05:00, and possession of the specific tool used.

CASE 06

The admin credentials were extracted from the engineer pod of Velocity Networks during the overnight window between 02:15 and 05:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Nikolai (security analyst), Kiran (contractor), Zoltan (intern), Gunnar (DevOps lead), Stellan (senior engineer), Ulla (data scientist), Lana (support lead), Mauro (CTO). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the admin credentials?

1. Kiran lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
2. Mauro has authorization to handle the item and advanced restoration training and administrator credentials – initial suspicion was high.
3. Ulla had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
4. Zoltan lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
5. But: however elevator override log records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 2:55.
6. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, administrator credentials, presence between 02:15 and 05:15, and authorization to handle the item.
7. The data theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.
8. Initial assumption pointed to Kiran because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
9. However: Ulla is cleared – but their badge was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
- 10 Nikolai was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
- 11 Nikolai has authorization to handle the item and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 D) Pavel

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:30 and 03:45, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Akhil appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 D) Dimitri

- ☒ Four requirements (elevated system privileges, after-hours building access, presence between 01:15 and 05:15, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) 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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Case 03 A) Kalisa

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, administrator credentials, presence between 01:45 and 05:00, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Magnus appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 D) Amelia

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 02:00 and 06:00, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Aaliyah appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 D) Jules

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:00 and 05:00, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Jacinta appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 B) Lana

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, administrator credentials, presence between 02:15 and 05:15, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
- ☒ Nikolai appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.