

Read one level at a time. Levels 2-3 are printed upside down: turn the page to read only the box you need, and cover the others with a spare sheet.

Don't know where to start

1 Pointer	Start with the timeline worksheet. Go through the livestream transcript (Exhibit 9) line by line and note who is where, minute by minute.
2 Evidence	Everyone whose voice is on the stream is on the 2nd floor at that moment. For anyone who is silent for a stretch, put "?" for now.
3 Nearly there	Stage 1 doesn't ask who did it. It only asks when, which route, and what they needed. Focus on Exhibits 1, 2, 4, 9 and 11.

Q1 · Time of death

1 Pointer	One object in the room stopped when the victim fell, and there was one sound everybody heard.
2 Evidence	Look at the victim's watch in Exhibits 2 and 4, then find the strange sound on the stream (9) and in the statement of the person right under the accounts room (Statement 3).
3 Nearly there	Watch stopped at 21:46 · thud on the stream at 21:46:30 · Lee heard the thud above the kitchen → about 21:46

Q2 · The route

1 Pointer	The timber stairs in this building have one special habit.
2 Evidence	The timber stairs creak on every step (1). Listen to the stream during the blackout (9): any stair sounds? Then see where the wet footprints start and end (2).
3 Nearly there	No timber-stair sound, timber stairs dry, wet prints come from the 3rd-floor back door → the outdoor iron spiral staircase, which can only be reached from the ground-floor back door. No outsider can get into the back alley.

Q3 · What they needed

1 Pointer	What state was the 3rd-floor back door in when the police arrived?
2 Evidence	The deadbolts need a key on both sides (1). The door was locked (2). So where was the victim's own key (2, 4)?
3 Nearly there	They needed a back-door key, and only 3 exist (11). The victim's key was still in the room, which leaves Akong's key and key no. 3.

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Q4 · Why the power went out

1 Pointer	The electrician's 2017 receipt has an important note on it.
2 Evidence	Read the note on the receipt (11), then the fuse-box findings in report 13 and the photo of the lane (10).
3 Nearly there	The red flag didn't pop up, the electrician confirms it was switched off by hand, and only this building went dark → someone cut the power on purpose

Q5 · Who went up to the accounts room

1 Pointer	Compare the key register (14) with your timeline at 21:46.
2 Evidence	Only 2 people held a key. One has a voice on the stream 12 seconds after the thud; the other is silent the whole time. Look at the sandals, the raincoat, and who was wet (13, 15).
3 Nearly there	Apao · key no. 3 (14) · size-42 footprints (13, 15) · wet legs, dry hair (13, Statement 11) · the sandbag story is false (13, Statement 10)

Q6 · Ruling out the others

1 Pointer	Take one person at a time: what evidence puts them somewhere else at 21:46, and do they have a key?
2 Evidence	Hia Ming is missing from the stream for a long time: look at the phone evidence (16, 17) and Statement 8 · Je Lee has a key, but check when her voice is on the stream (9) and the date on her phone (19).
3 Nearly there	Akong: can't climb to the 3rd floor + Nick holding his hand · Ming: video call at the front grille + no key · Lee: answers from the kitchen 12 seconds after the thud + dry · Nick: his voice is on the stream throughout · Emorn: camera flash at the window + no key

Hints · Final answer

use after opening Envelope B · Q1 (who did it) is on the first page of Envelope B

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Q2 · Did he act alone?

1 Pointer	Check the confession (Statement 13) against the forensic report (28), sentence by sentence. Which sentence can't be true?
2 Evidence	The victim took about 3 tablets. The drug was in the teacup, not in the flask (28) · who poured her tea, and who kept hold of that cup all night (Incident Report, Statements 6, 14) · whose pill bottle was counted (12, 30)
3 Nearly there	The cup has only Akong's fingerprints and the victim's. Akong poured the tea into it himself at 21:24 · Akong's pills: 30 - 22 nights = 8 should be left, but only 5 are → 3 tablets missing the draft will of 20 Aug (29) means Akong already knew Pao was his son

Q3 · How

1 Pointer	Line up what two people did from 21:24 to 21:53: one at the dinner table, one on the ground floor.
2 Evidence	The tea in the dragon cup (Incident Report, 28) · who sent the victim upstairs, and who sent Apao down (Statement 6) · storeroom → raincoat → fuse box → iron stairs → 3rd floor (13-15, Statement 7) · where is the film (22)
3 Nearly there	21:24 Akong gives the victim drugged tea and sends her up for the red envelope · 21:35 he sends Apao down "for the cake" · Apao puts on the raincoat, cuts the power at 21:41, climbs the iron stairs, unlocks with key no. 3 · the drowsy victim can't fight back; her head is struck against the safe at 21:46 · he takes the film, hides it in the raincoat, power back on at 21:52

Q4 · Why

1 Pointer	What was the victim about to do, and to whom, before Monday? (21, 26, 5, 6)
2 Evidence	The victim's notebook (26), entry of the 21st · the care-home card (6) · the notes on the sale contract (5) · Statement 14 · the draft will (29)
3 Nearly there	She was getting a doctor to certify Akong senile, making Ming his guardian, moving Akong into a care home on 1 Sep and selling the building · sacking Apao · and burning the negatives, the last proof that Pao is Akong's son · if they waited until Monday, the new will would be worthless

Q5 · The scratched-out face

1 Pointer	What is the boy on the far right of the new print (23) wearing round his neck?
2 Evidence	The letter (24) says how Akong will recognise the boy. Then look at the seized items (27) and Akong's private accounts (25).
3 Nearly there	Pao , Akong's first son by Janpen, born 1966 (25) = Apao, 59, who wears a jade fish under his shirt (27)