Inspector Tsukumo

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Important:

To properly understand the analysis and feats presented later in this document, it is essential to first understand the protagonist's time-loop ability and how it functions.

The time-loop ability is a supernatural curse that traps time within a single calendar day. Only the original host of the curse, Makoto, can advance the timeline. To do so, he must cause the death of at least one person before the end of the day. If he succeeds, time progresses normally to the following day. If he fails, the timeline resets to 00:00, the beginning of the day, erasing all events that occurred during the previous loop while allowing Makoto to retain his memories.
The curse is infectious, but only when a reset occurs. If the day ends without Makoto causing a death and another person is in direct physical contact with either Makoto or the curse's secondary host at the exact moment of the reset, that person also becomes infected. Once infected, they retain their memories after future resets and become bound by the curse. However, if Makoto successfully advances the timeline by causing a death, the curse cannot spread, regardless of physical contact. Furthermore, infected individuals cannot advance the timeline themselves. Even if one of them kills someone, the day will still reset unless Makoto is the one whose actions directly caused a person's death.
When a reset occurs, infected individuals do not return to the locations they occupied at the beginning of the day. Instead, they remain at the exact location where they were standing when the reset happened, even though the rest of the world returns to its original state. For example, if an infected person begins the day at home but is standing in a hospital when the reset

occurs, they will reappear in that hospital after the reset rather than at home. Another property of the curse is that anything an infected individual is physically holding or touching at the exact moment of a reset is transported into the new timeline together with them. This applies to both objects and people. Rather than creating duplicates, the transported object or person is removed from the previous timeline and transferred into the reset one, meaning duplicate versions never exist.
Finally, the curse recognizes indirect causality. Makoto does not need to personally kill someone. As long as his actions are the direct cause of another person's death before the deadline, the condition for advancing the timeline is fulfilled.

Context/Story:

High school student Kusakabe Makoto works tirelessly every day to earn enough money for the treatment of his younger sister, Shiori, who suffers from a terminal illness. With his father unemployed, his mother having abandoned the family, and constant bullying at work, Makoto endures an overwhelming burden. Despite everything, he refuses to give up and continues living solely for the sake of his sister. However, after learning that Shiori does not have much time left to live, Makoto falls into despair. In his desperation, he becomes trapped in a supernatural time loop and discovers that the only way to advance each day toward August 10 - the date of Shiori's life-saving surgery - is to ensure that at least one person dies every day. If he fails, time resets, preventing the surgery from ever taking place. Because Shiori is also trapped within the same time loop, she too will never reach the day of the operation unless Makoto continues killing.
Meanwhile, Inspector Tsukumo begins investigating the series of mysterious murders, determined to uncover the identity of the killer responsible for the growing chain of deaths.

After killing a man, Makoto accidentally leaves behind an envelope used exclusively for storing cash at the City Hospital. Upon discovering the envelope at the crime scene, Tsukumo concludes that the culprit is most likely connected to the City Hospital and may also have a connection to the victim.

Using the database available to him, he searches for individuals who fit both criteria and identifies Makoto as the strongest suspect. When Tsukumo later confronts him with these findings, he observes Makoto's facial expression and concludes from his reaction that Makoto is most likely the culprit.
[Emotional Perception, Inductive Reasoning, Abductive Reasoning, Convergent Thinking, Trap Setting]

When Yae is interrogated by Tsukumo and Mizuno, Mizuno suggests giving her time to calm down after the shock of discovering the body. Tsukumo disagrees, claiming that witnesses should be questioned as soon as possible while their memories of the events before, during, and immediately after discovering the body are still fresh.
[Practical Knowledge, Emotional Understanding]

When Makoto realizes that Yae witnessed him near the murder scene and reported it to the police before midnight, he concludes that simply resetting the timeline will not erase her testimony, as it will carry over into the next loop. Instead, he devises an alibi using the mechanics of the curse. Shortly before midnight, he travels to a location far away from the murder scene. When the timeline resets, he remains at that location rather than returning to where he started the day. He then deliberately visits a nearby convenience store so that the security cameras record his presence shortly after midnight. Since the murder occurred only minutes earlier, the footage appears to prove that it would have been impossible for him to reach the store in such a short amount of time, effectively giving him an alibi.
Later, when Tsukumo confronts him, Makoto points to the security camera footage as evidence supporting his innocence. After reviewing it, Tsukumo acknowledges that the footage appears to support Makoto's claim. However, he immediately notices several inconsistencies. Despite the heavy rain outside, Makoto does not appear nearly as wet as he should, and he is not carrying an umbrella that could explain it. Tsukumo also finds Makoto's behavior suspicious, noting that he seemed to position himself in front of the security camera as though he intentionally wanted to be recorded, making the entire situation appear too deliberate to be a coincidence.
[Trap Evasion, Cold Reading, Critical Thinking]



Despite the apparent security camera alibi, Tsukumo continues to consider Makoto as a possible suspect. Later, when Mizuno casually mentions that Makoto did not come to school that day, Tsukumo immediately infers that Katagiri must also be absent. This deduction proves correct. Tsukumo most likely arrived at this conclusion by analyzing the connections between the victims. Out of the six murder victims, four have clear links to Makoto. The remaining two are directly connected to Katagiri, who also attends the same high school as Makoto. Based on these connections, Tsukumo concludes that Katagiri must also be involved in the case, either as a potential victim or as someone connected to the culprit, making her absence from school highly suspicious.
[Information Processing, Divergent Thinking, Analytical Thinking, Abductive Reasoning]



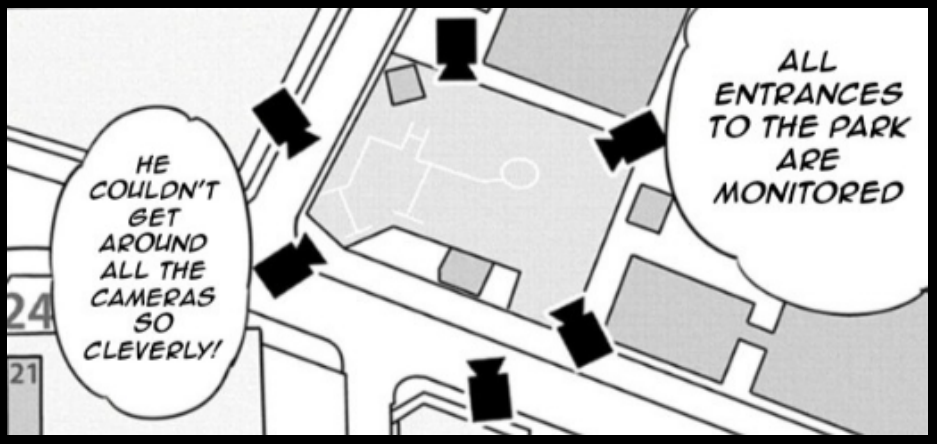
Since Tsukumo now considers Makoto his prime suspect, he recalls the mark he discovered on the floor at the first crime scene after the timeline in which Makoto had removed the envelope itself. The mark resembles the outline of an envelope, prompting Tsukumo to investigate what type of envelope could have left it. He eventually determines that its dimensions perfectly match the envelopes used exclusively for cash transactions at the city hospital - the same hospital where Makoto's sister is being treated. This significantly strengthens Tsukumo's suspicion by directly linking physical evidence from the crime scene to a location with which Makoto has a clear personal connection.
[Abductive Reasoning, Convergent Thinking]

Since Makoto's location is still unknown, Tsukumo waits outside the hospital, reasoning that Makoto will eventually return to visit his sister. As expected, Makoto arrives. When Tsukumo confronts him and presents the evidence regarding the hospital envelope, he carefully observes Makoto's reaction. Despite being confronted with evidence that could potentially implicate him, Makoto does not flinch, displays no visible emotion, and remains completely composed. Realizing that the evidence alone is not enough to provoke a reaction, Tsukumo deliberately changes his approach and begins targeting Makoto's potential emotional weak point - his sister. He loudly declares that Makoto's difficult life is entirely his sister's fault and that it would be better if her condition became hopeless so she would stop burdening him. Only then does Makoto finally show a visible emotional reaction. Based on this reaction, together with his previous interactions with Makoto and all the information he has gathered about him, Tsukumo concludes that, if Makoto is indeed the

killer, his motive is almost certainly related to his sister, Shiori.
[Abductive Reasoning, Emotional Manipulation, Emotional Perception, Emotional Understanding, Trap Setting, Prediction]

Katagiri, believing that Shiori is the source of Makoto's suffering, secretly turns off Shiori's life support without informing him, intending to free him from the burden of caring for her. Shortly afterward, a nurse discovers the situation and manages to restore Shiori's life support in time, saving her life. As soon as Tsukumo is informed of the incident, it further strengthens his deduction that Shiori is directly connected to the case, as he considers an event like this far too significant to be a coincidence. While reviewing the hospital's security camera footage, Tsukumo notices that one camera captured Katagiri leaving through the exit leading to the backyard. However, after that moment, she does not appear on any other cameras. From this, Tsukumo concludes that she deliberately avoided the remaining surveillance cameras. This deduction is later reinforced when he learns that the only camera that recorded her departure had been installed recently and was likely unknown to her. Tsukumo then notices that Katagiri had originally entered the hospital openly through the main entrance without attempting to conceal herself. Based on the contrast between her open arrival and her concealed departure, he concludes that someone must have instructed her to leave unnoticed only after she had already entered the hospital. He immediately identifies Makoto as the most likely person who could have given those instructions. From these observations, Tsukumo concludes that Katagiri is cooperating with Makoto and further infers that Makoto himself must also have been inside the hospital that day, which is later confirmed to be true. He then continues analyzing how Shiori's incident fits into their relationship, considering multiple possibilities. One of the hypotheses he considers is that Makoto and Katagiri are no longer cooperating, as Katagiri herself could have deliberately disabled Shiori's life support without Makoto's knowledge in an attempt to free him from the burden she believes Shiori has become.
[Abductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning, Causal Reasoning, Analytical Thinking, Divergent Thinking]





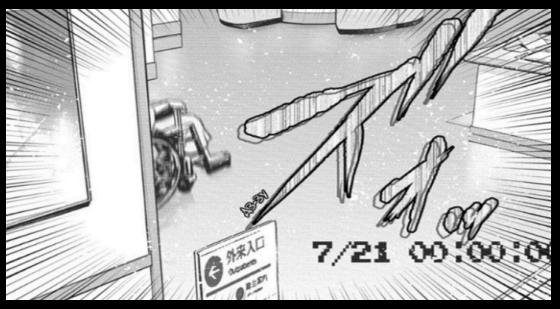
In these images, Tsukumo states that he has reviewed all of the security camera footage from both the cameras installed near the convenience store and those monitoring the entrances to the park. There appear to be approximately 22-24 DVDs containing the recordings. According to ChatGPT, the average estimate is around 8 hours of footage per DVD, while both Gemini and Claude estimate approximately 7 hours per DVD. Taking the average of these three estimates gives approximately 7.33 hours of footage per DVD. Using this average, 22 DVDs would contain approximately 161.3 hours of footage, while 24 DVDs would contain approximately 176 hours. This makes it impossible for Tsukumo to have watched everything at normal speed within the less than 24-hour period available to him.
There are two possible explanations for how Tsukumo managed to review all of this footage. The first is that he watched it at an accelerated playback speed. Using the average estimate of approximately 161.3-176 hours and approximately 20 hours of viewing time, he would have needed to maintain an average playback speed of approximately 8.07× to 8.8×, making roughly 9× a reasonable assumption. This means he processed approximately 161.3-176 hours of footage in roughly 20 hours without stopping, replaying, or

otherwise interrupting the recordings. More importantly, he had to continuously examine the crowds of people appearing on the footage and determine whether Makoto was among them, maintaining this level of visual analysis for approximately 20 hours at roughly 9× speed.
The second possibility is that Tsukumo was watching multiple recordings simultaneously. The footage shows him viewing several videos at once, which could explain how he processed the recordings without relying entirely on accelerated playback. Under this interpretation, he would have been processing approximately 161.3-176 hours of footage within roughly 20 hours across multiple screens. At normal playback speed, this would require approximately 8.07-8.8 monitors operating continuously, meaning at least 9 monitors would be required to cover the full amount of footage within approximately 20 hours.
Therefore Tsukumo would have needed to process the recordings at approximately 9× playback speed, or alternatively process them simultaneously across approximately 9 monitors at normal speed.
Another feat is that Tsukumo concludes that Makoto could not have avoided the cameras because every possible entrance to the park is monitored. He has never personally been to the park, meaning he cannot rely on direct knowledge of its layout. Instead, he only has a map showing the camera locations and the surveillance footage. By analyzing the camera positions and their fields of view and correlating them with the map, Tsukumo determines that there is no gap through which Makoto could have entered unnoticed. This requires him to reconstruct the surveillance coverage of an unfamiliar location solely from the available data.
[Self-Control, Stress Tolerance, Processing Speed (PSI), Visual-Spatial (VSI), Deductive Reasoning, Critical Thinking, Analytical Thinking]

A nurse from the hospital informs Tsukumo that she has noticed something unusual about Shiori's condition that may not be related to the case but could still prove helpful. According to her, Shiori's condition sometimes changes around midnight, with her heart rate suddenly fluctuating and her overall condition worsening. Upon hearing this, Tsukumo immediately connects it to the fact that most of the murders also occur shortly before midnight. From this, he becomes convinced that Shiori is directly connected to the murders and that her condition is somehow linked to them. Wanting more information, Tsukumo asks for additional details. The nurse directs him to another nurse who had spent much more time caring for Shiori but is currently on leave after her son was murdered by Makoto. When Tsukumo visits her house, he finds her in an almost psychotic state. She has completely

neglected both herself and her home, obsessing solely over finding her son's killer. Recognizing her mental state, Tsukumo devises a trap. He deliberately brings up Shiori in a way that leads the nurse to believe she might be connected to her son's murder. Knowing that the culprit has remained unidentified for a long time and recognizing the nurse's unstable mental state, Tsukumo concludes that she would be willing to take extreme measures if she believed they could lead her to her son's killer. Since she already knows that Makoto is Shiori's brother, she becomes convinced that targeting Shiori is the best way to force Makoto to reveal himself. Tsukumo predicts that, acting as a vigilante, she will go to the hospital, threaten Shiori's life, and force Makoto to appear in order to protect her. This is exactly what happens. However, the situation ultimately works in Makoto's favor. The confrontation occurs shortly before midnight on a day in which he has not killed anyone, meaning his only objective is to survive until the timeline resets. Before midnight arrives, Makoto confesses to all of the murders, intentionally provoking the nurse into abandoning Shiori and focusing entirely on him. As he anticipated, she redirects her attention toward him, allowing Makoto to take hold of Shiori and wait for the reset while physically holding her. Tsukumo witnesses the entire sequence. Despite hearing Makoto confess to every murder, he notices a major inconsistency: Makoto shows no fear whatsoever. Rather than behaving like someone cornered after admitting to multiple murders, he remains completely calm. Tsukumo immediately realizes that this behavior does not fit the situation and questions why Makoto appears so composed. Before he can investigate further, however, midnight arrives, and the timeline resets, erasing everything he had just witnessed.





However, because the timeline resets, Shiori is no longer returned to her hospital room. Since she was physically outside her room at the moment of the reset, she seemingly disappears from her bed and reappears in a distant hospital hallway where the previous events had taken place. This phenomenon is later captured by the hospital's security cameras. Although the timeline resets, Tsukumo's earlier trap involving the nurse remains

effective because it had already been set in motion before the reset occurred. However, before the nurse can act on it, Makoto - unaware that Tsukumo orchestrated the situation - tracks her down and kills her, believing that eliminating her is the only way to prevent her from harming Shiori. Later, Tsukumo is informed that Shiori has inexplicably vanished from her hospital room and mysteriously appeared in a distant hallway. After reviewing the security camera footage, he witnesses the seemingly impossible event himself. The incident occurred at 00:00 on July 21. From that moment onward, Tsukumo isolates himself to analyze everything until the following day. By 17:09 on July 22, he reached a complete conclusion. He explains that it took time to discard his preconceived notions, overcome conventional thinking, and fully accept the implications of the evidence. He concludes that something undeniably happened during the night of July 21, but that the event itself somehow disappeared from reality. He reconstructs the sequence of events. Someone removed Shiori from both her hospital room and her life-support system, meaning that person clearly intended to harm her. Based on the trap he had previously arranged, Tsukumo identifies the nurse as the only plausible culprit. He then visits her house to verify his hypothesis and discovers that she has been murdered by Makoto. The forensic report states that the nurse died only a few hours after Tsukumo visited her. However, Tsukumo rejects that interpretation, remarking that it may have been only a few hours for him, but not necessarily for Makoto. This realization becomes one of the key pieces of evidence supporting his new hypothesis. Tsukumo concludes that the trap he had set actually succeeded, that the confrontation between the nurse and Makoto truly occurred, and that the events were subsequently erased. He further deduces that Makoto somehow caused time itself to return to an earlier point, allowing him to save Shiori before later killing the nurse to prevent the same situation from happening again. From Shiori's condition repeatedly changing around midnight, Tsukumo also deduces that she must be traveling through time together with Makoto rather than remaining in the original timeline. The sudden deterioration of her condition coincides too precisely with the suspected resets to be a coincidence. Furthermore, after reviewing the security footage, he notices that Shiori did not reappear alone - her wheelchair had been transported together with her. From this, Tsukumo concludes that the phenomenon is capable of transporting not only people but also physical objects, and possibly even other individuals, through the temporal reset. He also infers that those affected by the phenomenon do not return to the locations they occupied at the beginning of the day. Instead, they reappear at the exact location where they were standing when the reset occurred, explaining why

Shiori materialized in the hallway rather than inside her hospital room. This conclusion also explains another contradiction that had remained unresolved. Earlier, Tsukumo had proven that Makoto could not have reached the park without being detected by any of the surveillance cameras covering every entrance, yet Makoto later appeared on security footage at a nearby convenience store, creating what seemed to be an impossible alibi. Under Tsukumo's new hypothesis, this inconsistency is no longer impossible. Thus, the previously inexplicable contradiction now fits perfectly within Tsukumo's theory of a temporal reset.
[Fluid Reasoning (FRI), Prediction, Trap Setting, Cold Reading, Emotional Understanding, Emotional Perception, Indirect Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation, Information Manipulation, Causal Reasoning, Deductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning, Abductive Reasoning, Critical Thinking, Analytical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Lateral Thinking, Conceptual Thinking, Convergent Thinking]

While driving with Mizuno, Tsukumo suddenly notices Makoto riding on a bus passing by in the opposite direction. He identifies him despite seeing him for only a brief moment and only from behind. This demonstrates Tsukumo's exceptional visual processing speed, observational ability, and memory, as he is able to recognize Makoto from nothing more than his silhouette, posture, and overall appearance during an extremely short glimpse.
[Sensory Observation, Information Processing, Processing Speed (PSI)]

From this point onward, Tsukumo devises a trap. His objective is to remain in physical contact with Makoto until midnight so that he can personally witness the temporal reset and confirm his hypothesis. However, while attempting to follow him, Tsukumo is discovered by Makoto. After realizing that covert surveillance is no longer possible, Tsukumo immediately changes his approach. He handcuffs himself directly to Makoto, ensuring continuous physical contact, and swallows the handcuff key to prevent Makoto from escaping before midnight. Tsukumo explains the reasoning behind this decision. He knows that simply telling the police about time travel would never be enough, as nobody would believe such an impossible claim. Therefore, he intends to obtain irrefutable evidence by personally experiencing the reset. Based on his deductions, he believes that anyone or anything in direct physical contact with Makoto is transported together with him when time rewinds. To further strengthen the evidence, Tsukumo deliberately leads Makoto toward an area monitored by security cameras,

hoping the surveillance footage will capture an impossible phenomenon. However, with only about a minute remaining before midnight, Makoto completely cuts Tsukumo's hand, breaking the physical contact between them before the reset can occur. With almost no time left, Makoto openly confirms Tsukumo's suspicions, acknowledging the existence of the time loop because there is no longer enough time for Tsukumo to make use of the information. Even after losing his hand, Tsukumo refuses to give up. He tells Makoto to keep the severed hand with him during the reset, reasoning that if the hand is transported into the previous timeline, the version of his hand that existed twenty-four hours earlier should disappear, leaving behind undeniable physical evidence that the reset occurred. He even asks Makoto to confirm whether that prediction is correct. Instead, Makoto drops the severed hand. In a final desperate attempt to test his theory, Tsukumo grabs it and throws it toward Makoto only seconds before midnight. However, the timeline resets before the hand can make contact, causing the experiment to fail.
[Mental Fortitude, Perseverance, Stress Tolerance, Trap Setting, Strategy Resilience, Strategy Adaptability, Critical Thinking]

After the reset, Makoto returns home. Since Tsukumo's severed hand did not travel back with him, the only remaining evidence is the handcuff still attached to his wrist. Makoto therefore goes home intending to remove it with tools. Later, the story shifts back to Tsukumo before these events occurred, while he is still analyzing the case. It is revealed that Tsukumo originally came up with the idea of handcuffing himself to Makoto after overhearing a joke from his colleagues. One of them jokingly tells Mizuno that, if she cares about Tsukumo so much, she should simply handcuff herself to him. This remark gives Tsukumo the idea he later uses in his attempt to obtain proof of the time loop. As Tsukumo instinctively reaches for his own handcuffs, he suddenly notices that they are missing, despite clearly remembering that they should still be there. From that moment, he immediately begins reconstructing what must have happened. He considers the possibility that he is experiencing the same day for the second time due to a reset. He reasons that the previous version of himself must have overheard the same joke, devised the same plan to handcuff himself to Makoto, and attempted to obtain proof of the time loop. Then he concludes that the plan most likely failed, however the disappearance of his handcuffs indicates that they must have traveled back in time together with Makoto. Since only something affected by the temporal phenomenon could have caused them to vanish, Tsukumo treats this as indirect evidence supporting

his hypothesis. Using this deduction, Tsukumo predicts Makoto's next move. Since Makoto would still be wearing the handcuffs after the reset, Tsukumo concludes that the most logical place for him to go would be his own home in order to remove them. However, Makoto had already anticipated this possibility. After murdering his father, he deliberately leaves the handcuffs at the crime scene. He also used Tsukumo's severed hand to place Tsukumo's fingerprints on the murder weapon before the reset, causing those fingerprints to remain on the knife afterward. As a result, the investigation is led toward Tsukumo as the primary suspect. At the same time, Makoto's seemingly airtight security camera alibi continues to convince the police of his innocence, causing suspicion to shift away from him and onto Tsukumo instead.
[Working Memory (WMI), Cognitive Flexibility (CFI), Deductive Reasoning, Abductive Reasoning, Causal Reasoning, Critical Thinking, Analytical Thinking, Convergent Thinking, Prediction]

Since Tsukumo is now being detained because the investigation points toward him, he instructs Mizuno to remain in physical contact with Shiori at midnight. His idea is for Mizuno to witness the phenomenon herself and finally become convinced of the existence of the time loop. Tsukumo arrives at this conclusion based on everything he has deduced so far. He has already concluded that both Makoto and Shiori travel through time whenever the timeline resets. Furthermore, the disappearance of his own handcuffs convinces him that not only people but also physical objects transported together with those affected by the phenomenon are carried back through time as well. Therefore, he reasons that if Mizuno is physically touching Shiori when the reset occurs, she should also experience the temporal reset firsthand, providing direct proof of his theory.
[Trap Setting]

After escaping house arrest upon learning Yae's location from Mizuno, Tsukumo begins searching for Makoto. Since Makoto's whereabouts are unknown, he focuses on the only two people directly connected to him: Shiori, who is already under police surveillance, and Yae. After Yae suddenly disappears, Tsukumo discovers that she has traveled to Toyama. He also notices that the recent murders have all been occurring there. Combining these facts, he concludes that Makoto is most likely hiding somewhere in the area. After patrolling the town for several days, Tsukumo finally locates Makoto together with Aizawa and incapacitates both of them using a taser. From that point onward, he devises a plan designed to both prove Makoto's

involvement in the murders and learn more about the mechanics of the time-loop ability. Before midnight on July 24, at 23:50, Tsukumo ties Makoto and Aizawa inside a locked metal container. He tells them that they will remain imprisoned until 00:00 on July 26, meaning they will be released after only twenty-four hours. In reality, Tsukumo intends to exploit the time loop. If his theory is correct and Makoto resets back to the beginning of July 25, Makoto will repeatedly return to the container while Tsukumo, who exists outside the reset, will have locked him inside only once. Tsukumo also secretly installs a hidden camera inside the ventilation system beforehand so that everything occurring inside the container will be recorded without Makoto noticing. He explains that, if his hypothesis is incorrect, Makoto will simply spend twenty-four hours locked inside the container before being released. However, if the time-loop theory is correct, repeatedly reliving the same imprisonment should eventually leave visible physical or psychological evidence on Makoto. Makoto immediately begins trying to escape by repeatedly kicking the container door. When Tsukumo later returns, he finds that Makoto is still desperately attempting to break out. This behavior allows Tsukumo to make another important deduction about the ability. Although Tsukumo explicitly promised that Makoto would be released the following day, Makoto spent roughly twelve hours continuously trying to escape. Even if Makoto did not fully trust that promise, Tsukumo reasons that such an extreme and relentless effort would only make sense if Makoto feared that the promised "next day" might never actually arrive. From this, he deduces that Makoto cannot freely advance time and that the progression of the timeline depends on a specific condition being fulfilled. He then connects this realization to the string of murders. Rather than being random acts of violence, Tsukumo concludes that the killings are the very conditions required for time to advance. Without Makoto causing someone's death, the timeline would continue resetting indefinitely, preventing the arrival of the next day. After reaching this conclusion, Tsukumo presents Makoto with a choice. He tells him that he can either continue repeating July 25 indefinitely until he eventually dies inside the container or kill Aizawa so that the timeline advances to July 26, at which point Tsukumo promises to release him as originally agreed. Tsukumo proposes this not only to pressure Makoto psychologically but also to obtain definitive proof of his crimes. Since Makoto is unaware of the hidden camera Tsukumo secretly installed beforehand, he believes there are no witnesses. Consequently, if he kills Aizawa in order to advance the timeline, the murder will be secretly recorded, providing Tsukumo with conclusive evidence against him. After midnight passes, the timeline resets to a second July 25. Despite having already spent an entire

day trapped inside the container, Makoto immediately resumes trying to escape by relentlessly kicking the door. After another unsuccessful day, the timeline resets for a third July 25. This time, Makoto begins the day covered in blood and visibly exhausted from repeatedly attempting to escape throughout the previous loops. When Tsukumo returns later that day, he notices that Makoto is no longer trying to break out. Instead, he only hears heavy breathing and exhausted groans from inside the container. From this change in behavior, Tsukumo realizes that, for Makoto, this cannot be the first time he has experienced July 25. When the fourth July 25 begins, Aizawa is transported through the reset as well because she was in direct physical contact with Makoto when the previous reset occurred. Unlike Makoto, however, she does not immediately realize that time has repeated. From her perspective, she has only spent two consecutive days inside the container. When Tsukumo returns, Aizawa demands that they be released, reminding him that he had promised to keep them imprisoned for only one day. Since she believes it should already be July 26, she concludes that Tsukumo has broken his promise. Observing both Makoto's deteriorating condition and Aizawa's reactions, Tsukumo once again concludes that Makoto must kill someone in order to stop the time loop. He therefore repeats his proposal, telling Makoto that he has only two choices: remain trapped forever as July 25 endlessly repeats until he eventually dies, or kill Aizawa to allow the timeline to advance. To make that option possible, Tsukumo secretly slips a shard of broken glass into the container. Makoto refuses once again. When the fifth July 25 begins, Tsukumo returns to find Makoto even more exhausted than before. After once again hearing only his weakened breathing from inside the container, he reaches the same conclusion and repeats the same proposal. When the sixth July 25 begins, however, everything changes. Because Makoto had previously infected Yae with the curse, she had also been repeating July 25 while retaining her memories. Unlike Tsukumo, who experienced each day only once, Yae experienced every reset alongside Makoto, giving her five full loops to search for him. Eventually, she spots Tsukumo, whom she already recognizes, follows him, locates the container, and rescues Makoto. When Tsukumo later returns during the sixth loop, Aizawa ambushes him, strikes him on the head, and locks him inside the container instead. Although incapacitated, Tsukumo remains conscious long enough to overhear Aizawa mention that she has already spent several days trapped inside the container. This statement immediately confirms several of Tsukumo's deductions. First, because Aizawa herself experienced multiple repetitions of July 25, he concludes that the curse can spread to other people through physical contact. Second, if Makoto

could freely control the progression of time, he would never have remained trapped inside the container for several consecutive loops. The fact that he endured days of imprisonment proves that advancing the timeline is not under his direct control. Finally, Tsukumo once again connects these observations to the murders, concluding that a specific condition must be fulfilled for time to progress. Based on all the evidence he has accumulated, he identifies Makoto's killings as the only condition that consistently explains why the timeline sometimes advances and sometimes endlessly repeats. [Anticipation, Trap Setting, Strategy Deception, Planning Coverage, Contextual Observation, Convergent Thinking, Conceptual Thinking, Analytical Thinking, Abductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning, Deductive Reasoning, Causal Reasoning, Logical Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Stress Tolerance]

After Yae is arrested by Tsukumo, he realizes that Makoto will almost certainly come looking for her. Since Makoto's whereabouts remain unknown, Tsukumo decides to search the same town himself, anticipating that Makoto will eventually appear there. His prediction proves correct, and he finally locates Makoto. To ensure Makoto cooperates without resistance, Tsukumo tells him that he knows where Yae is and promises to take him to her. After apprehending Makoto and bringing him in for interrogation, Tsukumo is given only three days to prove that Makoto is the serial killer. At this point, Tsukumo himself should already be under arrest because he had been framed through the planted fingerprints and the kidnapping of two people. Wanting to prove both the existence of the time loop and Makoto's connection to the murders, Tsukumo instructs everyone present to remain in physical contact with Makoto at exactly midnight so that, if his theory is correct, they will also become trapped in the time loop and personally witness it. However, nothing happens after the first midnight. Tsukumo explains that Makoto must have already caused someone's death before being captured, allowing the timeline to advance normally. The following day, however, the same thing happens again - midnight passes without any reset. This further damages Tsukumo's credibility and worsens his relationship with his colleagues, who become even more convinced that his theory is delusional. Rather than abandoning his hypothesis, Tsukumo immediately searches for another explanation. He deduces that, before leaving to search for Yae, Makoto must have prepared some kind of mechanism capable of killing a person automatically each day without requiring his direct involvement. If that were true, the victims or their bodies would have to be hidden somewhere. Acting on this deduction, Tsukumo orders a large-scale search to locate them. At

first, Tsukumo hopes the mechanism contains only a limited number of victims and will simply run out before the three-day deadline expires, allowing the timeline to reset and proving his theory. However, after the second consecutive day passes without a reset, he concludes that the opposite has become far more likely. If the mechanism still contains enough victims to continue causing deaths each day, then his entire three-day investigation will fail regardless of what he does. Anticipating that possibility, Tsukumo immediately begins preparing a contingency plan while continuing the investigation. Before the deadline expires, he secretly obtains the hospital's floor plans and evacuation routes, leaving them in his home so that, once his three-day plan fails and the police search his residence, they will discover them. He predicts that when he later announces a bomb threat, the police will remember these materials and interpret them as evidence of prior preparation, making the threat appear completely credible. Thus, the hospital operation is never intended to replace his original investigation but instead serves as a backup if Makoto's automatic killing mechanism prevents him from proving the existence of the time loop. Ultimately, Tsukumo's fears prove correct. The three days expire without a single reset because Makoto's mechanism successfully causes the timeline to continue advancing each day. As a result, Tsukumo fails to convince anyone of his theory. Already framed as a criminal, he ultimately escapes from police custody, even taking Mizuno hostage, further destroying his reputation in the eyes of the authorities. With his original plan having failed exactly as anticipated, Tsukumo immediately proceeds with the contingency he had already prepared. Since he knows his reputation has been completely destroyed, he also knows that any extreme action he takes afterward will be considered believable by the police. Using this to his advantage, Tsukumo reports that he has planted a bomb inside the hospital. Given that he is now considered a dangerous criminal, both the police and the hospital staff treat the threat as genuine. As a result, every patient - including Shiori - is evacuated from the hospital. Tsukumo deliberately arranges for the evacuation to take place shortly before midnight. His plan relies entirely on the mechanics of the time loop. If Makoto does not cause anyone's death before midnight and the timeline resets, Shiori, as an infected individual, will not return to her hospital room. Instead, she will remain at the exact location where she is at the moment of the reset. Because she is in a coma and is being transported outside the hospital, she would be left helpless in the middle of the road after the reset, placing her life in immediate danger. Tsukumo intends to use this situation to force Makoto into killing him so that the timeline advances to the next day and Shiori survives. However, Tsukumo cannot know with certainty whether Makoto's

automatic killing mechanism still contains victims. Instead, he also bases his plan on Yae. Tsukumo reasons that Yae has never had the opportunity to speak with Makoto after his arrest and therefore cannot know whether the mechanism still has anyone left to kill. Even if she somehow knew it existed, she could not know how many victims remained inside it. Tsukumo also concludes that the mechanism must have been constructed only after Yae disappeared, when Makoto began preparing for the possibility of being arrested. Consequently, Yae could not possess detailed knowledge of it. From this, Tsukumo predicts that if Yae learns Shiori's life is in danger, she will sacrifice herself to indirectly cause Makoto to fulfill the condition for advancing the timeline, thereby saving both Makoto and Shiori. Before revealing the details of his plan, Tsukumo first observes Makoto's reaction. When he tells him that Shiori is being evacuated from the hospital, he immediately notices fear and realization in Makoto's expression. From this reaction alone, Tsukumo concludes that Makoto's mechanism has already run out of victims. If it had not, Makoto would have had no reason to react with such alarm. Even if this deduction proved incorrect and the mechanism still contained victims, Tsukumo could simply remind Makoto that Yae does not know that. He would reason that Yae would still sacrifice herself to ensure Makoto survives. Knowing how deeply Makoto and Yae care for one another, Tsukumo concludes that forcing Makoto into a situation where Yae dies because of him would psychologically devastate him. In Tsukumo's eyes, it would be equivalent to Makoto killing Yae himself. He believes that such emotional pressure would inevitably cause Makoto to kill him, which would still achieve Tsukumo's objective by ensuring Makoto is convicted of murder. Even if Makoto somehow endured Yae's death without reacting - which Tsukumo considers impossible - Tsukumo also has one final measure. Instead, he would directly threaten Shiori's life, making it clear that if Makoto refuses to kill him, he will kill Shiori himself. Faced with the certainty of losing either Yae or Shiori, Tsukumo believes Makoto will inevitably choose to kill him. As Tsukumo predicted, Makoto ultimately attempts to kill him. Shortly afterward, Makoto learns that Yae has committed suicide. Overwhelmed by grief after losing the person he loved most, he completely loses control.
[Prediction, Anticipation, Trap Setting, Trap Evasion, Planning Resilience, Planning Adaptability, Planning Coverage, Planning Contingency, Strategy Complexity, Strategy Adaptability, Emotional Understanding, Emotional Perception, Information Manipulation, Convergent Thinking, Lateral Thinking, Critical Thinking, Deductive Reasoning, Abductive Reasoning, Event Manipulation, Mass Manipulation, Logical Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation, Perseverance]

Before Makoto delivers the final blow, he first stabs Tsukumo in the back and then slashes his neck. Despite suffering these fatal wounds, Tsukumo shows almost no visible fear or reaction. Instead, he remains composed and even manages to mock Makoto before finally being killed.
[Mental Fortitude, Self-Control, Composure]