

## Clue 5—Time is of the essence

Smithkins was wondering if it was lunch yet. He had forgotten his watch and felt embarrassed to ask the time. He wandered over to the Homeware department and looked at the clocks. To his surprise, none of them showed the right time. The batteries had been removed from every clock. They were lined up in a row. This is a diagram showing the clocks.

The Inspector was intrigued to hear of this and quickly concluded that it was a clue. After a long think, he decided that it was the minute hand which gave the clue. It was the old  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 2$  etc.

“But what about the fourth clock—9:55? There is no 55<sup>th</sup> letter in the alphabet,” observed Smithkins.

“But how many minutes is it to the next hour?” asked the Inspector.

