Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The Terracotta Army demonstrates the scale and sophistication of Chinese civilization, providing physical proof of Qin Shi Huang's power. For national identity purposes, this discovery became a symbol of China's ancient greatness and cultural continuity, reinforcing pride in a civilization that has existed for thousands of years.

2. Wei's discovery shows that the archaeological record is accessible to anyone who interacts with the landscape. Ordinary people — farmers, construction workers, fishermen — frequently make finds that trained archaeologists then study, suggesting that the past is embedded in everyday life and not just the domain of academics.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. D

3. B

Matching

1-B, 2-A, 3-E, 4-C, 5-D

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Mandate, 2) Shang, 3) well

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: The Mandate of Heaven meant that if a ruler governed poorly — causing floods, famines, or military defeats — it was a sign the gods had withdrawn their approval. This made overthrowing a bad ruler seem like restoring divine order rather than treason, which helped justify the constant cycle of dynastic change.

Q2: While court texts glorified ruling dynasties, excavations at Anyang revealed oracle bones and royal tombs that gave archaeologists direct access to Shang-era beliefs and practices. The Mawangdui tomb discovery showed details about a historical woman's health and diet that no written record had preserved.

Q3: Government funding allows large-scale excavations that might not otherwise happen. However, political pressure to produce impressive results can lead to rushed work, incomplete excavation before tourist development, and restrictions on outside scholars — all of which can compromise scientific accuracy.