Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Dara should prioritize agricultural irrigation first because a failed rice harvest would cause widespread famine and social instability that threatens the entire empire. Residential water access should come second, with religious reservoirs receiving reduced allocations temporarily. However, reducing water for temple ceremonies risks angering the king and the priestly class, potentially costing Dara his position or his life.

2. The scenario reveals that the Khmer Empire's centralized water system created a single point of failure for the entire civilization. While the hydraulic network enabled unprecedented agricultural productivity and urban growth, any disruption to the system, whether from drought, infrastructure decay, or political mismanagement, could cascade into a civilization-wide crisis. This vulnerability helps explain why the empire ultimately collapsed when climate changes disrupted the monsoon patterns the system depended on.

Multiple Choice

1. B
2. D
3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Vishnu, 2) LiDAR, 3) barays

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: It is inaccurate because local Cambodian populations had always known about Angkor Wat and continued to visit the site for centuries. Mouhot did not find an unknown ruin but rather published accounts that introduced the site to European audiences. His role was publicizing the temples to the Western world, not discovering them.

Q2: The LiDAR surveys revealed that Angkor was a sprawling urban landscape of over four hundred square miles, far larger than the visible temple complexes suggested. The scans uncovered a planned grid of roads, neighborhoods, irrigation channels, and previously unknown temples hidden beneath dense jungle canopy. This

proved Angkor may have been the largest city on earth during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Q3: The Khmer Empire declined primarily because climate shifts disrupted the monsoon rainfall patterns that the entire hydraulic system depended on. Combined with decades of infrastructure neglect and the inability to maintain the vast canal and reservoir network, the water system failed. Without reliable irrigation for multiple rice harvests, the agricultural surplus collapsed, and the population could no longer be sustained.