Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Costly because it takes energy and increases risk; may signal strong health, immune function, or overall condition.

2. Predation risk and habitat conditions change the survival cost; in riskier environments, flashy tails can be more dangerous.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. D

3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) costly, 2) sexual, 3) dimorphism

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Honest signals are costly or hard to fake; receivers can evolve to detect quality, keeping reliability over time.

Q2: Example: gift-giving shows resources/care ability, increasing mate choice and offspring survival.

Q3: A flashy trait can attract mates but also attract predators, creating opposing pressures.