Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Xochitl's role as a market negotiator and her mother as the cloth producer show that commoner women were active economic agents, not just domestic workers. The reading confirms that cloth was a currency and tribute commodity, meaning women's weaving directly participated in the larger economy.

2. Cacao serves as both a medium of exchange (Xochitl's goal is to acquire beans as currency) and a symbol of celebration and status (her family is saving it for a festival). This shows that in Aztec life, economic and social meanings were inseparable — what you could afford also signaled your place in the hierarchy.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. B

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Tlatelolco, 2) cotton, 3) vanilla

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: The calmecac was attached to temples and trained noble children in astronomy, writing, law, and religion, producing priests, administrators, and military leaders. The telpochcalli trained commoner boys in practical military and agricultural skills. Both were mandatory, reflecting the state's need to manage both its elite administrative class and its large commoner workforce.

Q2: Women's weaving was not merely a domestic task but a form of economic production directly tied to the state. Cloth was paid as tribute, used as currency in the market, and represented a significant portion of household wealth. This means women's labor was structurally integrated into the imperial economy even though women held subordinate social positions.

Q3: Daily life evidence is largely perishable — food scraps, textiles, wood objects. Archaeologists rely on refuse deposits and middens (rubbish heaps), carbonized plant remains, spindle whorls and needles in domestic contexts, chemical traces on

pottery, and written records like codices and Spanish colonial documents. Each source has its limitations and biases, requiring careful cross-referencing.