Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Tariq's emotional response demonstrates that the gate genuinely serves an educational purpose in Berlin — millions of visitors have had the same experience he did. This complicates a pure legal argument, because the museum's access argument is not entirely cynical. The ethical question becomes how to balance the rights of the country of origin with the legitimate cultural value the object provides in its current location.

2. Tariq means that the 'preservation' argument is partly about maintaining institutional control rather than purely about technical conservation needs. Museums claiming they can best preserve artifacts implicitly assert authority over objects from other countries. This matters because it reframes the debate: if the claim is primarily territorial rather than technical, then equal conservation capacity in the source country would undermine the museum's position entirely.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. D

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) dragons, 2) Nineveh, 3) Koldewey

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Ancient writers described the Hanging Gardens in vivid detail, but no physical evidence supports their account at Babylon. This is a useful reminder that ancient historical sources often reflect propaganda, exaggeration, or secondhand reporting rather than direct observation. Archaeology is essential for checking written accounts against physical evidence — and the absence of evidence is itself significant data.

Q2: The debate involves questions of legal title (were the original excavation permits valid?), cultural ownership (the gate is Iraqi heritage), practical access (millions see it in Berlin who could not travel to Iraq), conservation capacity, and the

question of whether a reconstruction can be meaningfully separated from its original context. Each of these dimensions has legitimate arguments on multiple sides.

Q3: The Processional Way, Ishtar Gate, and massive temple complex were designed to communicate power, divine favor, and wealth to everyone who entered the city. Visitors could not avoid the message: Babylon is great, Marduk has blessed its king, and the scale of what has been built here is beyond what lesser kingdoms can accomplish. Architecture made political claims visible and permanent in a way that military victories, which could be reversed, could not.