Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Tariq's shift illustrates 'building a verification community' and the concept of modeling verification behavior rather than issuing corrections after the fact. The first approach — after-the-fact correction — triggered defensiveness and felt like criticism of the sharer. The second approach — sharing his verification process in real time — normalized the behavior as curiosity and transparency rather than judgment, making it something others could adopt without feeling criticized.

2. Tariq's case illustrates the reading's argument that a relatively small number of well-connected individuals consistently practicing verification can measurably change the information norms of an entire network. Two relatives independently adopted the behavior after seeing Tariq model it — showing that individual behavior is contagious in social networks, and that the culture of an information community can shift through the cumulative effect of individual behavioral examples, not just explicit teaching.

Multiple Choice

1. B

2. D

3. A

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Washington State, 2) bias, 3) humbly

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: A functional verification habit: Cue — encountering any post that triggers strong emotional response or seems too perfectly timed to current events. Routine — before clicking share, opening a new tab and taking 30 seconds to search the source name and check whether multiple credible organizations cover the same story. Reward — the clear knowledge of whether something is verified, including the satisfaction of having caught a fake before sharing it. Practiced daily on ordinary content until it fires automatically on high-stakes content.

Q2: The time delay technique targets impulsive emotional reaction — strong emotional responses drive immediate sharing before deliberation can engage, and a

waiting period allows that emotional intensity to decay without suppressing genuine interest. The confirmation bias correction targets motivated reasoning — we are systematically worse at detecting flaws in information we want to be true, so explicitly flagging confirmation as a reason for extra scrutiny counteracts the cognitive asymmetry that makes us more vulnerable to believable-to-us falsehoods.

Q3: The reading places meaningful responsibility on individuals — every share, every correction, every modeled verification behavior contributes to the norms of one's information community. Most people probably don't think of themselves as having this kind of influence, because social media scale makes individual actions feel trivial. But the research on network effects shows that high-traffic, well-connected individuals have outsized influence; and even lower-traffic individuals shape the immediate communities (family chats, classrooms, friend groups) where they actually have the most direct influence.