Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The tourist assumed the site was an anonymous historical object belonging to everyone abstractly, without recognizing that a living descendant culture maintains a personal connection to it. Ricardo's statement forces the tourist to see the site not as a museum artifact but as someone's specific cultural heritage.

2. Ricardo absorbs the daily friction of mass tourism — angry visitors, repeated confrontations, physical strain — while earning a modest wage, showing that local communities living near major sites bear significant social and labor costs so that millions of tourists can have an experience.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. D

3. A

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) two, 2) Mesoamerica, 3) Itza

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Chichen Itza generates critical revenue for conservation and local employment, making closure economically impossible. Compromises include banning climbing on major structures and increasing site guard presence, while still allowing millions of visitors to walk the grounds.

Q2: The decapitation carvings on the ball court walls likely represent mythological narratives or specific elite ritual sacrifices rather than routine execution of players. Evidence for systematic player sacrifice is thin, and the ball game served simultaneous purposes as sport, diplomacy, and ritual.

Q3: The Sacred Cenote gave rulers both spiritual authority as keepers of a sacred water source and practical power over a critical resource in a region with no rivers. Controlling water access in a drought-prone environment translated directly into political loyalty from dependent populations.