Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Merit is exercising her right to testify in legal proceedings and her right to initiate legal action independently of her husband. The reading explicitly states Egyptian women could 'testify in court' and 'enter legal contracts.' Merit does both — she files the complaint herself and declares her readiness to swear an oath before a magistrate, demonstrating full legal standing.

2. In a society where Ma'at was both a religious principle and the foundation of law, invoking it in a legal complaint connected the case to divine order. Swearing before Amun carried religious weight — false testimony before a god was a serious offense that would affect the afterlife judgment. These were not merely rhetorical flourishes but legal and theological commitments that strengthened the claim's seriousness.

Multiple Choice

1. C
2. A
3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) rations/kind, 2) strike, 3) Taweret

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: A woman suing over a stolen blouse, a man suing a neighbor over unpaid debts, workers going on strike over unpaid wages — these are concerns that any modern person would instantly recognize. Everyday human concerns about fairness, property, food security, and work compensation appear to be universal regardless of the era, which is why ordinary records feel more relatable than royal proclamations.

Q2: Egypt's agricultural economy required women to manage households and property while men worked seasonally on construction or military campaigns, necessitating legal standing. Cultural factors may also have played a role — the goddess Isis was one of the most powerful deities in the pantheon. Limitations still existed: professional and government roles were predominantly male, and most women's productive work was centered on domestic production.

Q3: Official monuments and records show us what rulers wanted people to believe; everyday culture shows us how people actually lived, what they valued, and how they coped with difficulty. Entertainment reveals priorities, creativity, and shared values that pure political or religious history cannot. A civilization's leisure activities are as much a part of its identity as its laws or monuments.