Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. A family safe word would have been the most effective defense. Even with a perfect voice clone, the scammer would not know a private code word that exists only in genuine family conversations. The defense works precisely because it doesn't require Diane to evaluate the voice — it creates a verification requirement that bypasses the convincingness of the clone entirely.

2. Scammers deliberately create emotional pressure — panic about a grandchild's safety, urgency about time, instructions not to call parents — specifically to override careful thinking. Diane's pause demonstrates that even a moment of deliberate slowing-down can be protective. The broader lesson is that the urgency itself should be treated as a warning signal rather than a reason to act faster.

Multiple Choice

1. C
2. D
3. B

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) acoustic, 2) safe word, 3) primary

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Voice calls happen in real time under emotional conditions — a call claiming a child is in danger removes the time and calm needed for careful evaluation. Unlike a photo you can examine closely, voice calls pressure recipients to respond immediately. They also exploit the intimacy of voice recognition, a deeply ingrained human trust mechanism, in ways visual media typically does not.

Q2: Technical detection faces an arms race — as cloning improves, detection degrades, and families cannot continuously update detection software for every phone call. Procedural defenses like safe words don't depend on distinguishing real from fake at all — they create an additional requirement that scammers fundamentally cannot satisfy without access to private family knowledge. This shows that when technology is unreliable, process design often provides more durable security.

Q3: Answers will vary. Strong responses might distinguish between voice as an active, transactional identifier (used to authorize payments, verify identity) versus image as primarily a visual record, arguing that voice cloning's specific exploitation of authentication creates a stronger case for legal protection. Students might also argue symmetrically that both should be protected or both are fairly available once posted publicly.