## Teacher Answer Key

### Case Study

1. The careless excavation lost: the exact depth profile (which could indicate deliberate planning vs. hasty concealment), whether the body was wrapped (suggesting premeditation), whether there were artifacts identifying the perpetrator or establishing timeline, and the soil profile showing how long the grave had been there. Each of these could have been used by either prosecution or defense to support or challenge the premeditation argument.

2. A forensic archaeologist understands that the grave itself is evidence — not just the body inside it. They know to survey before digging, document in three dimensions, collect soil samples, and photograph each stage. A police officer trained in rapid evidence collection treats the grave as an obstacle to the body. That knowledge gap means irreplaceable contextual evidence is destroyed, which can make the difference between a conviction and an acquittal.

### Multiple Choice

1. D
2. A
3. D

### Matching

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

### Fill-in-the-Blank

1) clandestine, 2) taphonomy, 3) chain

### Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Once a grave is disturbed, the contextual evidence it contained — soil stratification, body orientation, associated artifacts, insect and plant evidence — is permanently destroyed and cannot be recovered. Unlike a lab sample that can be re-tested, a poorly excavated grave cannot be re-excavated. In court, this destroyed evidence could have been the difference between proving or disproving premeditation, time of death, or the identity of whoever did the burying.

Q2: Forensic archaeologists excavated mass graves from conflicts like the Srebrenica massacre and produced documented, legally defensible evidence about the number of victims, cause of death, and proof that graves had been disturbed to conceal the killings. This evidence was presented at the International Criminal

Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and supported convictions because it was collected systematically with full chain of custody documentation — meeting the evidentiary standards of an international court.

Q3: Taphonomy is the study of how organisms decompose and change after death, including how burial conditions, soil chemistry, temperature, insects, and animal activity affect remains. A forensic archaeologist needs taphonomic knowledge to distinguish changes caused by natural decomposition from those caused by human action — such as determining whether a body was moved after initial burial, or whether trauma occurred before or after death.