Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Flavius's letter reveals boredom, supply shortages, weather complaints, and frustration with the bureaucracy — the unglamorous reality of frontier garrison life that official military dispatches would never record. These human details match exactly what the Vindolanda tablets reveal archaeologically.

2. Soldiers from the Netherlands, Syria, North Africa, and across the empire guarding a frontier in Britain shows that Rome managed its territory through a unified military system that pulled people far from their homelands — a level of organizational reach that was historically unprecedented.

Multiple Choice

1. B

2. C

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Tyne, 2) invitation, 3) Heritage

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Hadrian's motivations likely included economic control of trade and border crossings as well as his policy of consolidating rather than expanding the empire. The wall may have functioned as much as a customs checkpoint and political statement of Roman power as a military defensive barrier.

Q2: Soldiers from Syria, Spain, Belgium, North Africa, and the Danube region all served on Hadrian's Wall, bringing their own religious cults, foods, and cultural practices. This shows Rome operated as a genuinely multicultural empire rather than a purely Roman-ethnic military machine.

Q3: The Vindolanda tablets preserved personal letters — birthday invitations, supply requests, complaints about weather and underpants — that no formal historical source records. They give us direct access to individual Roman voices in a way that inscriptions or official documents cannot.