Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The Deir el-Bahri temple was too massive to demolish. The buried statues survived underground. Her obelisks at Karnak were walled over but not destroyed. And ultimately, a tooth in a canopic box bearing her name survived intact for 3,500 years. Physical objects are much harder to erase than written records — the erasure was incomplete because scale and materiality worked against it.

2. Hatshepsut's story shows that the historical record is controlled by those in power — Thutmose III literally rewrote history by chiseling away her name. But archaeology challenges this control because physical objects survive independently of official narrative. Buried statues, massive temples, and small surviving artifacts can restore what official erasure tried to eliminate, suggesting that physical evidence is more durable than politically motivated history.

Multiple Choice

1. B
2. A
3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) regent, 2) Punt, 3) erasure

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Hatshepsut adopted the visual and ceremonial language of male kingship — the false beard, the double crown, the sphinx form — because those were the established symbols of divine authority. She wasn't pretending to be male but was appropriating the symbols of power to legitimize her rule. This suggests that authority in Egypt was tied to symbols and roles more than strictly to biology, since she clearly governed effectively.

Q2: The delay of twenty years suggests the erasure was calculated political strategy rather than personal rage. By the end of his reign, Thutmose III may have been concerned about succession and wanted to establish a clean male lineage. Immediate erasure at her death would have looked vindictive; doing it decades later

looked more like administrative tidying. The timing points to deliberate political rather than emotional motivation.

Q3: Hatshepsut's recovery shows that physical evidence can survive deliberate erasure, especially when the objects involved are too large or too numerous to fully destroy. However, erasures have sometimes been more successful when physical evidence was also destroyed — many ancient rulers and events are simply unknown because all records were eliminated. Hatshepsut's survival was partly luck: a massive temple that couldn't be demolished and statues that were buried rather than melted down.