Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Scribes were exempted from manual labor, earned steady income, held social prestige, and could be addressed respectfully by people of higher economic status. For a family of craftsmen like sandal-makers, placing a son in scribal school was a pathway out of physical labor and into a professional class that offered security and social mobility. The investment was high but the potential rewards were transformative.

2. When only 1-3% of people could read and write, scribes controlled all written communication — tax records, legal documents, religious texts, royal decrees. Anyone who could not read was entirely dependent on scribes to mediate their interactions with the state. This gave even low-ranking scribes extraordinary power over people who might otherwise outrank them economically, similar to how computer programmers hold power in environments where others cannot code.

Multiple Choice

1. *C*

2. *C*

3. *A*

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Ptolemy V, 2) 1822, 3) cartouches

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: A mixed system can represent a wider range of words and concepts than a purely alphabetic system — logograms allow direct visual representation of common ideas, while phonograms allow new or foreign words to be spelled out. However, the complexity means students must memorize hundreds of symbols rather than just an alphabet of 26 letters, making literacy much harder to achieve.

Q2: Egypt argues the stone is part of its cultural heritage, was taken under colonial circumstances during Napoleon's campaign, and belongs in the country where it was made and found. The British Museum argues it is part of the world's shared heritage, that the museum provides universal access to millions of visitors, and that its role as a global institution justifies keeping major artifacts.

Q3: Written records allow us to hear the actual thoughts, fears, emotions, and ideas of people from the past in a way physical objects cannot. A tomb artifact tells us someone was buried there; a love poem tells us what they felt. Tax records reveal economic conditions; medical texts show scientific knowledge. Written sources add voice and interiority that archaeology alone cannot recover.