Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Retail sizing has drifted for decades through vanity sizing, in which manufacturers relabel larger garments with smaller numbers, and no legal standard forces brands to be consistent. Pattern sizing has stayed tied to a fixed set of body measurements and has not drifted, so the two numbers were never describing the same measurement and a store eight can easily measure a pattern fourteen.

2. A muslin is a test version of the garment sewn from cheap plain fabric solely to check the fit before cutting the real material. It would have revealed that the shirt did not close across the chest while the only thing lost was a few dollars of scrap cotton, rather than the fabric she saved three paychecks to buy.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. C

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) 5/8, 2) muslin, 3) measurements

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: A pattern drafted for woven fabric assumes the material has zero stretch, so cutting it from a knit produces a garment whose fit was calculated on the wrong assumption. A pattern drafted for knits builds negative ease into its measurements and relies on the fabric stretching, so the same pieces cut in a woven will be far too small to wear.

Q2: The pattern pieces already include wearing ease so the body can breathe, reach, and sit, plus whatever design ease the style calls for. Removing that difference to match the body measurement exactly eliminates the room the garment needs to function, producing something that technically matches the numbers and cannot actually be worn.

Q3: Fabric that has not been preshrunk can shrink after the garment is constructed, at which point the finished piece no longer fits and nothing can be done

about it. Preshrinking using the same method that will clean the finished garment moves that shrinkage to before the cutting stage, where it costs nothing.