Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The fact that Kiros cannot read the tablets but his entire livelihood depends on them suggests that literacy and administrative power were concentrated among palace scribes and elites, while ordinary sailors and workers operated within the system without understanding or controlling it. Real power in Minoan society likely belonged to those who controlled the record-keeping — the palace administrators who tracked goods, personnel, and trade.

2. One benefit of Evans's reconstruction is that it makes Knossos accessible and visually understandable to modern visitors, helping people connect with an ancient civilization that might otherwise seem abstract. One major problem is that his reconstructions were often more imagination than evidence, potentially misleading visitors and future researchers about what Minoan architecture actually looked like, effectively overwriting surviving evidence with modern guesswork.

Multiple Choice

1. B
2. D
3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Arthur Evans, 2) Thera, 3) bull-leaping

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Linear A represents a critical gap in our knowledge because it is the primary writing system of the Minoans themselves, and until it is deciphered, we cannot read their own records, understand their religious texts, or know what they called themselves or their rulers. We can study Minoan material culture through artifacts and frescoes, but the actual thoughts, beliefs, and administrative records of the Minoans remain locked away.

Q2: Knossos served as an administrative hub with clay tablet archives recording livestock and grain, a religious sanctuary for ceremonies, a storehouse for massive pithoi jars holding olive oil and other goods, and a manufacturing center where craftspeople produced luxury items. This multifunctional design suggests Minoan

society was highly centralized, with the palace controlling economic, religious, and political life simultaneously.

Q3: The parallels between Minoan Crete/Thera and Atlantis include a sophisticated island civilization destroyed by catastrophic volcanic and seismic events, producing waves that swallowed land. However, scholars are skeptical because Plato wrote about Atlantis over a thousand years after the Thera eruption, and Plato's account includes many details (like its location beyond the Pillars of Hercules) that do not match the Aegean geography.