Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Even a partial record of what was present before looting provides a baseline for investigators, allowing them to match recovered objects to specific missing items. The reading notes that many objects were eventually returned because documentation existed; Mohsen's list contributed to that documentation. In a situation where any record is better than none, incomplete documentation has real value.

2. The fact that some looters knew exactly where to look suggests the operation had inside knowledge — possibly from people familiar with the collection. This implies connections to professional networks that had already identified specific desirable objects, linking the looting directly to the organized international trade in antiquities. The legal market for unprovenanced objects provides financial infrastructure that makes organized looting profitable.

Multiple Choice

1. C
2. D
3. A

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) 15,000, 2) Convention, 3) 3100

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Museum objects had been catalogued, photographed, and inventoried, meaning investigators knew exactly what was missing and could identify specific objects if they appeared on the market. Site objects were often removed before being documented, so there is no record of their existence. You cannot search for something you do not know exists, and you cannot prove a specific object came from a specific site without documentation connecting them.

Q2: Responsibility is distributed across multiple actors. The American military failed to protect a site that scholars had warned would be vulnerable. International collectors created and sustained the demand that made looting profitable. Auction houses facilitated sales of unprovenanced objects without adequate scrutiny. The

Iraqi government's collapse removed the protective infrastructure that normally guards sites. Addressing the crisis requires action from all of these actors, not just one.

Q3: Strong local institutions can employ guards, maintain fencing, conduct regular surveys of vulnerable sites, and respond quickly to looting incidents. Without adequate funding, guards cannot be paid, sites cannot be monitored, and storage facilities cannot be maintained. Economic support also builds the local expertise and professional capacity needed to manage Iraq's enormous archaeological heritage over the long term, rather than depending on intermittent foreign missions.