Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The farming-first sequence was not isolated to one chapter — it was woven throughout her discussions of multiple civilizations including Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley. Since the old assumption served as a foundational framework, disproving it meant that references and arguments across the entire book needed to be reconsidered and revised.

2. A paradigm shift can make finished academic work outdated, as Dr. Olsen learns when she realizes her whole chapter rests on an assumption that no longer holds. She has to delay publication and spend six months rewriting the chapter from scratch. The change reaches beyond one chapter, because the old sequence was woven into her discussions of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley. The case study shows that every conclusion in archaeology is provisional and can be overturned by the next excavation.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. B

3. A

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) 7,000, 2) quipu, 3) 90

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Archaeologists previously believed that agriculture had to come first because farming created food surpluses that allowed people the free time and social organization to build temples and practice organized religion. Göbekli Tepe reversed this because its monumental temple complex was built by hunter-gatherers who had no agriculture, suggesting that the desire to gather for spiritual purposes may have actually motivated the development of farming.

Q2: Machu Picchu showed that the Inca built an enormous, precisely engineered complex without iron tools, wheeled vehicles, or a written language — technologies that Western scholars had long considered prerequisites for advanced civilization. The site demonstrated that societies could achieve extraordinary architectural and

engineering feats through alternative methods like quipu record-keeping and stone-age toolwork.

Q3: All three sites forced archaeologists to revise long-held assumptions about what was required for monumental construction. Each was built by a society that supposedly lacked the prerequisites scholars believed were necessary — whether that was agriculture, metal tools, or writing. Together, they demonstrate that human societies are far more capable and diverse than any single model of development can capture.