Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Knowledge was built through centuries of careful observation recorded by generations of priests who passed records to successors. This shows that without modern instruments, systematic long-term record-keeping and institutional continuity can produce scientifically precise results.

2. The criticism is that people promoting apocalypse theories were being irrational by projecting modern fears onto sophisticated astronomical records. The reading supports this by showing Maya inscriptions record events after December 2012, and living Maya people explained their calendar was about renewal cycles, not destruction.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. D

3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) zero, 2) Round, 3) Dresden

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: By connecting coronations, military victories, and births to astronomically significant dates, rulers appeared to be acting in harmony with cosmic forces, which validated their divine authority. The Long Count's precision made these connections verifiable and visually impressive on public monuments.

Q2: The 2012 phenomenon falsely claimed the Maya predicted apocalypse, when in reality they expected the calendar cycle to renew. Popular media chose dramatic interpretations over accurate ones, while living Maya scholars and community members publicly rejected the apocalypse narrative.

Q3: Maya society had a specialized priestly class that maintained observatory records across generations, indicating a high degree of institutional organization, literacy, and long-term planning. The transmission of eclipse records over centuries required writing, dedicated recordkeepers, and stable institutions.