Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Dr. Hassan's decision reflects the principle that responsible excavation requires proper resources, documentation, and oversight. Digging without those protections destroys the context of artifacts, making them scientifically useless. It is better to preserve a site than to excavate it poorly.

2. It suggests that local people can know about buried remains before archaeologists record them. Tariq had grown up three kilometers from the site, and his grandfather's story matched the wall the team had not expected. The reading also explains that early excavations in Mesopotamia often stripped artifacts from their context and shipped them to museums abroad, so working with local communities matters.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. B

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) cuneiform, 2) Fertile Crescent, 3) empire

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: The annual floods deposited nutrient-rich silt that made farming highly productive, allowing Mesopotamians to grow large food surpluses. However, the floods were unpredictable in timing and volume, sometimes destroying crops and settlements, which required the development of complex irrigation and flood-management systems.

Q2: Both events represent the irreversible destruction of primary historical records. The Library of Nineveh held thousands of tablets containing literature, science, and history from across the ancient world. The 2003 looting destroyed or scattered tens of thousands of artifacts that could never be replaced, severing those objects from their recorded context permanently.

Q3: Agricultural surplus meant that not everyone needed to farm to survive. This freed people to specialize in crafts, trade, administration, and religion.

Specialization created the need for record-keeping, which drove the development of writing, and the complexity of trade and governance required laws, tax systems, and bureaucracy.