Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Schliemann's belief that he had found Priam's treasure caused him to smuggle artifacts out of Turkey illegally, permanently damaging diplomatic relations and denying Turkey its own cultural heritage. His rush to confirm his theory also caused him to dig through the actual Trojan War layer he was searching for, destroying irreplaceable context and producing incorrect conclusions — demonstrating that personal conviction without scientific rigor causes real and lasting damage to the archaeological record.

2. Being wrong 'in the best possible way' means that while Schliemann misidentified the shaft graves, he proved that Mycenae was genuinely one of the most powerful and wealthy cities in the Bronze Age Aegean — a more significant discovery than simply finding evidence for Agamemnon. Whether being productively wrong is valuable is arguable: it can open new fields of inquiry, but it also demonstrates why rigorous method matters, since wrong conclusions that happen to be interesting are still wrong.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. D

3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Hisarlik, 2) Lion Gate, 3) continuity

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Using ancient texts as archaeological guides can be productive — Schliemann's Homeric obsession led him to real sites — but also dangerous, because the desire to confirm the text can cause archaeologists to misidentify or rush past evidence that does not fit the story. The benefit is that mythology often preserves real cultural memory; the risk is that it can distort interpretation.

Q2: This means that the Iliad should not be treated as a reliable historical record of specific events, individuals, or chronology, but can be used carefully as evidence for the general cultural world that produced it — its values, warfare, social

structures, and religion. Historians must separate what the poem reveals about Bronze Age Greek culture from what it invents for dramatic or poetic purposes.

Q3: The shaft graves demonstrate that Mycenae was genuinely wealthy and powerful enough to mobilize military campaigns; the Linear B tablets show a sophisticated administrative system tracking military resources; and the Lion Gate proves the presence of monumental public architecture consistent with a powerful royal court. Together, these finds confirm that a real warrior civilization existed at Mycenae, lending historical plausibility to the broad outlines of Homer's stories even if the specific narrative details cannot be verified.