Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Dr. Ferraro's team should immediately control the environment by limiting the number of people who enter the room, monitoring temperature and humidity levels, and installing temporary protective coverings over the frescoes. They should photograph and digitally scan everything in place before touching any objects. The carbonized scrolls and bronze figurines should be stabilized by conservators before being moved, as sudden changes in moisture and temperature could cause irreversible damage.

2. Some archaeologists would argue the room should have remained sealed because the enclosed environment was actively preserving the contents in a stable state. Opening the room introduces oxygen, fluctuating humidity, light, and biological contaminants that immediately begin degrading organic materials and painted surfaces. Future technology might have allowed non-invasive study of the room's contents through imaging techniques without ever breaking the seal, preserving the artifacts indefinitely in their original condition.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. C

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Trojan, 2) thermopolium, 3) three

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Pompeii was buried under lighter pumice and ash, which preserved the city's layout and many surface details but allowed more air pockets and gradual decay of organic materials. Herculaneum was buried under a much denser layer of volcanic mud that hardened into rock, creating an airtight seal that preserved organic materials like wooden furniture, carbonized scrolls, and multi-story buildings to their original roof lines in far greater detail.

Q2: The EU allocated 105 million euros through the Grande Progetto Pompei beginning in 2012 to address urgent structural failures at the site, including wall

collapses that had attracted international criticism. This funding supported stabilization work, installation of protective roofing over frescoes, advanced monitoring systems, and the major Regio V excavation campaign that has produced significant new discoveries.

Q3: Each excavation season reveals new rooms, artifacts, skeletal remains, and food traces that add specific details to our knowledge of Roman daily life. Recent discoveries like the Regio V thermopolium with preserved food, frescoes with mythological scenes, and skeletal analysis of eruption victims provide evidence about diet, art, religion, social class, and the final moments of the catastrophe that written sources alone cannot capture