Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Thin-section analysis would reveal the specific minerals in the clay and the temper materials used. If these minerals match the geology of the Niger Delta region and not the coastal Ghana area, it confirms the pottery was made there and transported 500 miles.

2. Pottery survives almost forever and is produced in huge quantities, so it provides extensive evidence for trade. When a sherd made from non-local materials appears at a site, it proves a trade connection existed, even for periods and regions without written records.

Multiple Choice

1. B

2. A

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) amphorae, 2) polarized, 3) 20000

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Typology classifies pottery by visible features like shape and decoration to determine its type and approximate date. Thin-section analysis reveals the mineral composition of the clay to determine where it was made. Together they tell you both when the pottery was made and where it came from.

Q2: Roman amphorae have been found from Britain to India, and their clay composition can be matched to specific production sites. Many also carry stamps identifying the producer, contents, shipper, and date, making them a detailed record of the goods traded across the Roman Empire.

Q3: Pottery is arguably the most valuable artifact type because it is found in huge quantities, survives indefinitely, and can reveal information about chronology, trade, technology, diet, and daily life. Few other artifact categories provide such a wide range of evidence about the past.