Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The gap under the door is an air leak, and sealing leaks is one of the highest-return actions because heating and cooling dominate a household energy bill. The incandescent bulbs use roughly five times the electricity of LEDs and last far less time, and the devices left plugged in draw phantom load continuously, which a power strip eliminates.

2. The reading states that the highest-return actions are unglamorous ones like sealing air leaks, adding insulation, and adjusting the thermostat a few degrees, each of which produces measurable savings. It also notes that a running toilet wastes enormous volumes silently and lint-clogged vents hurt efficiency, so attention rather than sacrifice or new equipment returns the money.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. A

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) phantom, 2) wishcycling, 3) reduce

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: A high price is a decision about the future and can be avoided the next time you shop, while waste is a loss that has already been taken. The money left the household when the item was purchased, so nothing about a future price comparison can recover it.

Q2: Contaminated loads can be rejected entirely at the sorting facility, which means an entire batch of otherwise recyclable material goes to the landfill instead. Wishcycling therefore removes materials that would have been recycled, which is worse than putting one item in the trash.

Q3: Products with available parts, tools, and documentation can be repaired instead of replaced, and a device with a replaceable battery may last three times as long as a sealed competitor at the same purchase price. Comparing cost per use rather than cost per purchase makes that difference visible before the money is spent.