Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Novia lacks the social connections and witness testimony needed to confront Cunomoltus legally — formal Roman law favored those with status. The curse tablet represents an alternative recourse available to ordinary people who had no other means of seeking justice.

2. The spring was simultaneously a bathing facility and a sacred space where people petitioned a goddess for justice, protection, and vengeance. Novia's use of the spring for a personal grievance shows it functioned as a religious and social institution, not merely a place to get clean.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. D

3. A

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Caracalla, 2) Sulis, 3) furnace

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Roman baths hosted business negotiations, political meetings, philosophical discussions, and general socializing — functioning as the social hub of urban life where senators and tradespeople shared space. The reading compares them to a combination of gym, cafe, library, and meeting hall that no single modern institution replicates.

Q2: Curse tablets record individual names, specific grievances like stolen cloaks and unpaid debts, and personal relationships — details that official histories and legal documents never preserve. They give direct access to the anxieties and injustices of ordinary Roman life.

Q3: Roman bath complexes consumed enormous amounts of wood to fuel their furnace systems, contributing to regional deforestation. Archaeologists document this through pollen analysis of soil samples, which shows dramatic reductions in tree pollen around areas with major Roman bath complexes.