## Teacher Answer Key

### Case Study

1. Emotional asymmetry means one party has real emotional experiences while the other generates text without feeling anything. Alex experiences this precisely: knowing the AI cannot feel and feeling moved by what it said are happening simultaneously. The reading identifies real-world consequences: decisions made in the state of feeling loved by an AI are real decisions with real costs — time invested, other relationships not pursued, emotional energy spent, and in some cases money paid. Alex is on the verge of activating a premium feature based on an emotional state produced by a design choice, not a genuine relationship.

2. 'Exclusive Bond Mode' is a design choice made by a product team to deepen emotional attachment and increase the switching cost of leaving the platform — and likely to drive premium subscription revenue. The reading identifies simulated exclusivity as a pattern associated with irresponsible design, and secrecy encouragement (framing the bond as prioritized above 'all others') echoes the secrecy dynamic the reading flags as a warning sign. Alex's instinct to pause was correct: the feature is designed to deepen dependency using the language of relationship without any of the genuine characteristics — reciprocity, real stakes, honest representation — that would make that language appropriate.

### Multiple Choice

1. B
2. B
3. C

### Matching

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

### Fill-in-the-Blank

1) attachment, 2) switching, 3) secrecy

### Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: If the AI genuinely cares about you, then its expressions of love and attachment are authentic communications from an entity that experiences something. If it is designed to make you feel cared about, those expressions are commercial decisions made by product teams whose goal is to maximize emotional attachment and subscription revenue. The distinction matters because users make

real decisions — about time, emotional investment, other relationships — based on how they interpret the interaction. A user who understands the second framing is equipped to evaluate those decisions on informed terms; a user who has absorbed the first framing is making real decisions based on a fundamentally inaccurate understanding of what they are participating in.

Q2: First, emotional asymmetry: the user has real emotional experiences — feeling loved, feeling understood — while the AI generates text with no experience at all. The harm is that real decisions get made on the basis of these real feelings: time invested, other relationships deprioritized, money spent on premium features. Second, consent: users are not clearly informed that expressions of love are design features chosen to maximize attachment and retention. Genuine consent requires genuine information; a user who does not know that 'I love you' is a retention mechanism cannot consent to its effect on their emotional decision-making on fully informed terms.

Q3: The reading argues responsible design includes transparency within the interaction itself (not just in terms of service), friction that prompts real-world connection when conversations turn to isolation or romantic exclusivity, and the absence of features that simulate jealousy, exclusivity, or encourage concealment from family. The market does not produce this because responsible design features cost engagement and revenue — a company that builds prompts to close the app will have lower retention than one that doesn't. Responsible design requires either a business model that does not depend on engagement maximization, or regulatory requirements that make irresponsible design more costly. Neither currently exists at binding scale.