Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The family was unaware that the Echo's default settings included saving voice recordings and potentially allowing human review of them. They never read the privacy policy, didn't know the recordings were being stored, and didn't know children's data had special legal protections that Amazon had allegedly violated. The default-collection structure meant they were sharing data without ever making an active choice to do so.

2. Amazon presented the Echo as a convenient kitchen assistant, but its default behavior was to store recordings and make them available for review — a function that was never clearly communicated at setup. Companies like Amazon have a responsibility to make data practices prominent and clearly explained at setup, not buried in policies — especially when children are likely users. The settlement suggests Amazon was aware of the issue.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. B

3. A

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) 25, 2) computer, 3) 2014

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: The trade-off is convenience and smart functionality in exchange for intimate behavioral data about your daily life — your schedule, movements, voice, and habits. The consumer technically decides by agreeing to terms of service, but the reading reveals that these agreements are rarely understood, that defaults favor collection, and that companies have sometimes exceeded what users consented to. In practice, informed consent is often theoretical.

Q2: The Ring AI simply flags motion and detects a person — a neutral technical function. But when the Neighbors app makes that footage shareable with a community, human racial bias determines what gets flagged as 'suspicious.' The reading documents cases of Black residents doing normal activities being flagged and

shared. The AI creates the infrastructure for surveillance; human prejudice determines its targets.

Q3: It reveals that tech companies adopted practices they knew users would find problematic, disclosed them only when forced by external pressure, and structured their systems with collection as the default. This pattern suggests that voluntary corporate transparency on privacy is limited and that external scrutiny — journalism, regulation, litigation — plays a necessary role in holding companies accountable for how they handle personal data.