Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The pigeons were fed at random, but each one kept repeating whatever it happened to be doing when the food showed up, like turning in circles or pecking the wall, as if that action had caused the reward.

2. People stick with superstitions because the emotional comfort is too strong to ignore, even when they know logically that the behavior doesn't actually change outcomes.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. A

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) False correlation, 2) Skinner, 3) Superstitious

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Different cultures assign different meanings; for example, 13 is unlucky in the U.S., while 4 is unlucky in East Asia.

Q2: Stressful situations increase anxiety, making people turn to rituals that provide comfort.

Q3: Answers may vary: Some argue they are harmless and provide comfort, while others say they discourage logical thinking.