Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Marco's choice illustrates how archaeological preservation laws require individuals to absorb immediate costs — delayed work, inconvenience to neighbors — for a broader public good. It reflects the reading's point that every trench dug in Mexico City risks disturbing remains, making personal decisions like Marco's cumulatively important for the historical record.

2. Planned archaeological review should be built into the development process from the start, rather than treated as an interruption. The subway example shows that large-scale infrastructure work in historically layered cities can produce significant discoveries if proper protocols are in place — making early coordination less disruptive than emergency halts.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. D

3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) causeways, 2) over, 3) Xochimilco

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Tenochtitlan lies beneath one of the most densely populated cities on earth — Mexico City with over 21 million residents. Every construction project risks disturbing remains, but stopping to excavate properly costs time and money, creating constant conflict between preservation and the practical needs of a functioning modern city.

Q2: The offering caches contain materials from distant regions — coral and sea life from the Gulf Coast, jaguar remains from tropical forests, obsidian from volcanic regions — showing that Tenochtitlan was the center of a tribute and trade network spanning thousands of miles. These physical objects confirm that the Aztec Empire had genuine economic reach across Mesoamerica.

Q3: Tenochtitlan was, by contemporary accounts and archaeological evidence, one of the largest and most sophisticated cities in the world. Its deliberate destruction

erased a living urban tradition and has made historical recovery enormously difficult. This matters because it means our understanding of Aztec civilization is permanently incomplete — we are always working from fragments of what once existed.