Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The hiring environment shifted toward valuing demonstrable AI tool proficiency and portfolio evidence of what candidates can actually do — neither of which a traditional degree specifically develops. Her sister's credentials signal she completed a curriculum, but not necessarily that she can use the tools employers now expect or that she has a track record of producing concrete work.

2. Starting early means the portfolio grows over time, and early projects become more impressive as skills develop. The reading makes clear that the portfolio matters more than perfect polish — employers want evidence of ongoing learning and real engagement, not a single showcase piece. Building the habit of documenting work now is itself a valuable professional skill.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. A

3. B

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) spreadsheets, 2) transparency, 3) degree

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: The difficulty is that AI is used along a spectrum — from minor grammar correction to full content generation — and there is no clear threshold at which use becomes material enough to require disclosure. Different industries also have different stakes and different norms, and the technology itself is changing faster than consensus norms can develop.

Q2: It means being able to set your own priorities, manage your time without external deadlines pushing you, and stay focused on producing quality work when no one is watching. Developing these habits now means practicing intentional scheduling, setting personal deadlines, completing self-directed projects without being graded, and building genuine accountability to your own goals rather than external requirements.

Q3: The specific tool names, timelines, and salary figures will likely be different in actual 2030 than predicted here — the pace of change has consistently surprised even experts. What is more reliable is the directional reasoning: AI will be more embedded, skills will matter more than credentials, and adaptability will remain essential. Students should hold specific predictions loosely while using the underlying framework to guide decisions.