Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Physical objects contain information that cannot be captured photographically or digitally: chemical composition, microscopic tool marks from the original carving process, pigment residues that reveal original coloring, and the physical wear patterns that record how the object was used over millennia. A digital scan records the shape as it appeared at one moment; the original object holds layers of history within its material.

2. The combination reveals that cultural destruction can serve multiple purposes simultaneously: ideological messaging (framing the past as idolatrous), terror (demonstrating ruthlessness), media strategy (generating global attention), and economic activity (funding operations through artifact sales). Cultural heritage becomes a resource to be exploited or a target to be destroyed depending on what serves the political agenda.

Multiple Choice

1. C
2. B
3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) 30,000, 2) rebellion, 3) explosives (or: power tools)

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: As a military strategy, extreme public violence against resisters made cities more likely to surrender without fighting, reducing the cost of conquest. As an administrative strategy, forced population relocation destroyed the social networks that make rebellion possible. The drawback was that the policy generated lasting hatred and created a reputation for cruelty that made enemies more likely to fight to the death rather than surrender.

Q2: Ashurbanipal's library was the first known attempt to systematically collect and preserve the written knowledge of an entire civilization rather than just the records of a single institution. It reveals ambitions beyond military conquest — a desire to be remembered as a keeper of culture and knowledge. The library's survival despite

the city's destruction means it achieved a form of immortality Ashurbanipal likely intended.

Q3: The destruction of Nimrud erased irreplaceable primary evidence about Assyrian civilization: relief carvings that recorded specific historical events, inscriptions that named rulers and battles, and physical features of the stones themselves that could have told us about ancient quarrying and carving techniques. These were not just beautiful objects but historical documents. Once destroyed, the information they contained is gone permanently, and no reconstruction can restore what the originals knew.