Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Demetrios's vote is arguably legitimate by the rules of Athenian democracy, which required only that a citizen cast a vote — not that the vote be based on extensive knowledge. The system accepted that ordinary citizens would vote with limited information, relying on community reputation and social network. Whether this makes it less legitimate depends on one's view of what democracy requires, but the system was designed for this reality.

2. Pre-written ostraka suggest that Athenian democracy, like modern democracy, involved political organization, influence campaigns, and partisan mobilization rather than purely independent citizen judgment. This complicates the idealized image of rational, self-directed democratic participation, showing that political manipulation and organized factions were present from democracy's very beginning — a pattern strikingly familiar in modern electoral politics.

Multiple Choice

1. A
2. C
3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) six thousand, 2) Stoa, 3) Greek

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: 'Humanizing Athens' means replacing the idealized image of marble and toga-clad philosophers with evidence of real, ordinary city life. Specific evidence includes bronze coins, toy horses, loom weights, lamps, and household pottery that reveal merchants, craftspeople, and ordinary citizens using the Agora alongside political figures, painting a messier and more interesting picture than written sources alone provide.

Q2: Ostracism is arguably a contradiction of democratic principles because it denied the accused a trial, the ability to hear charges, and any formal opportunity to defend himself — protections that modern democracy considers fundamental. However, the Athenians designed it specifically to prevent tyranny, and it did

require a minimum of 6,000 votes, providing a popular mandate. Students may argue either position with evidence.

Q3: The Agora is critical because it has yielded physical evidence of democratic mechanisms — actual ostraka with scratched names, the kleroterion for jury selection — that written sources describe but could not fully illustrate. The combination of public building foundations, administrative artifacts, and everyday objects creates a comprehensive picture of how democracy actually operated on a daily basis rather than just in theory.