Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Isabel faces a system where economic interests have bureaucratic priority over cultural heritage, mirroring the broader historical pattern of outside entities controlling Indigenous lands. Her situation illustrates how the reading's point that 'descendants of both empires are alive today' is not merely symbolic — living communities have direct stakes in how these sites are managed and protected.

2. Because the Aztec and Inca are not just ancient history, protecting and accurately studying their sites is a matter of living cultural identity and rights. The reading's emphasis on understanding these civilizations on their own terms applies equally to respecting the voices of descendant communities in decisions about their heritage.

Multiple Choice

1. B

2. D

3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Tenochtitlan, 2) quipus, 3) smallpox

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: The Aztec used a tribute system that extracted goods and labor from conquered peoples while leaving local rulers largely in place. The Inca imposed direct administrative control through the mit'a labor tax, population resettlement, and a state road network that allowed them to move goods and troops across their enormous territory.

Q2: Spanish accounts were written by conquerors with political motives to justify their actions, often exaggerating practices like human sacrifice. Archaeological evidence from sites like the Templo Mayor provides physical data that can confirm, contradict, or add nuance to these written sources without the same ideological bias.

Q3: Disease — primarily smallpox — killed populations with no prior immunity before many groups even encountered Spanish soldiers. This was compounded by military violence, forced labor, and cultural destruction. The scale matters because it means

we are missing most of the people who could have transmitted knowledge of these civilizations, making archaeological recovery of what they left behind even more urgent.