Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Lucius lives in a functioning villa but cannot repair the hypocaust, uses outdated administrative forms, pays taxes to no one, and cannot explain his own identity — decline visible in small practical failures accumulating over generations rather than a single dramatic event.

2. The broken and unrepaired hypocaust matches the archaeological evidence of villa decline and abandoned infrastructure. Lucius reusing his ancestor's crumbling walls for tenant shelter matches the archaeological pattern of spolia — making do with inherited structures instead of building new ones.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. A

3. B

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) Romulus, 2) Byzantium, 3) Charlemagne

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Terra sigillata pottery was mass-produced at standardized factories and distributed across the entire western empire, indicating a functioning pan-European trade network. Its gradual replacement with cruder, locally made pottery visible in stratigraphy maps the contraction and eventual collapse of that economic system layer by layer.

Q2: The Eastern Empire continued as Byzantium until 1453 CE — nearly a thousand years after 476. Contemporaries did not necessarily experience the period as a sudden collapse, and many Roman institutions, including the Church and Latin language, continued uninterrupted.

Q3: The Catholic Church preserved Latin literacy, classical texts, and Roman law through the political collapse, providing administrative continuity where imperial government evaporated. Latin evolved into the Romance languages, and Roman legal principles survive in Western legal systems to the present day.