Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Every element of the system required reliable maintenance: runners had to be trained and stationed, bridges had to be rebuilt after floods, tambos had to be stocked. The interdependence shows that Inca imperial control worked through distributed community obligation rather than centralized force alone — the mit'a system embedded state needs into local responsibility.

2. The scolding reveals a bureaucracy that measured performance against idealized standards rather than practical constraints. Individual workers absorbed the cost of failures that were structurally beyond their control. This reflects a demanding state system that prioritized reliable output over fairness to individual operators.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. B

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) ichu, 2) five to seven (5-7), 3) 2014

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: The Inca substituted massive organized human labor — mobilized through the mit'a system — for the mechanical advantage of wheels and iron. Every community contributed labor to build and maintain roads, bridges, and tambos. This required extraordinary administrative coordination across a diverse, multilingual empire spanning extreme terrain, demonstrating organizational capacity that rivals any contemporary civilization.

Q2: Chasquis were relay runners stationed every 2 km along main roads, each sprinting their section at full speed before handing messages to the next runner. The system delivered messages 2,000 km in 5-7 days — comparable to European horse relay systems. The key difference was that chasquis were specialized human athletes trained for mountain running rather than relying on animal power.

Q3: A living cultural practice is one that is actively maintained by a community rather than simply preserved as a museum artifact. The Q'eswachaka bridge is

rebuilt annually using traditional techniques by a Quechua community as a ceremony connecting them to their ancestors. This matters archaeologically because it preserves embodied knowledge of construction techniques that written records cannot fully capture, and culturally because it affirms Indigenous continuity across the conquest period.