Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Dannu's position is supported by evidence that foragers were healthier than early farmers: they had more diverse diets, fewer dental problems, less infectious disease, and worked fewer hours per week to obtain food. The reading notes that modern foraging studies show approximately 20 hours per week spent on food acquisition, far less than the labor demanded by farming. Mira's settlement already shows early signs of the health costs: three people were recently ill.

2. Larger settled populations required infrastructure (storage, walls, organized labor) and created conditions for specialization — some people could focus on crafts, religion, or administration instead of farming. But the reading notes that food storage created ownership, ownership created accumulation, and accumulation created self-reinforcing hierarchies. The same scale that enabled the healer and her supplies also eventually enabled slavery and serfdom.

Multiple Choice

1. D
2. A
3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) 7000, 2) dental, 3) roofs

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Domestication means genetic change through selective breeding over many generations, not just behavioral tolerance of humans. Domesticated wheat does not shatter at harvest as wild wheat does; domesticated animals are less aggressive and more productive than their wild ancestors. This distinction matters because it shows that domestication was a slow, multigenerational process with biological consequences, not a sudden invention anyone could reverse.

Q2: When food can be stored, it can be owned by specific individuals rather than being shared as it is consumed. When some people can own more stored food than others, some become wealthier. Wealthier individuals can accumulate more resources, hire labor, and protect their holdings — creating hierarchies. Those

hierarchies become self-reinforcing because wealthy families can pass advantages to children. The reading traces this chain all the way to slavery and serfdom as eventual outcomes.

Q3: A rational person in 9000 BCE might have been cautious about farming. Foraging provided better health, more dietary variety, fewer hours of labor, and less exposure to infectious disease. However, farming offered greater security against seasonal scarcity, could support family and community members who could not hunt or forage effectively, and allowed accumulation of resources for harsh seasons. The rational choice would likely depend on local environmental conditions and whether wild food sources were reliable.