Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Microbes recycle DOM into biomass that supports higher levels of the reef food web.

2. Pollution, overfishing, or warming can disrupt microbial balance, harming corals.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. C

3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) dissolved, 2) DOM, 3) carbon

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: It recycles DOM into usable nutrients, supporting productivity at all levels.

Q2: Harmful microbes can overtake beneficial bacteria, disrupting recycling and coral health.

Q3: It ensures nutrients are continually available for phytoplankton and the food web.