Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The case study shows Fu Hao as an experienced commander who had led armies before. She had her own troops, her own horses, and her own supply lines. The king had given her the command of the campaign. She also ordered the ceremonies before the march, matching the reading's description of her as a ritual specialist. Someone with that much military and religious power would have been given a burial that showed her status.

2. Fu Hao combined military command with ritual authority, conducting oracle bone divinations before campaigns and arranging sacrifices after victory. This suggests that in Shang society, political and religious power were not separate — a great leader had to be both an effective warrior and a competent mediator with the ancestors.

Multiple Choice

1. B

2. D

3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) ding, 2) sacrificed, 3) rank (or status)

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Coordinating dozens of furnaces simultaneously required planning, a clear chain of command, skilled workers, and reliable logistics. This level of industrial coordination in the Shang period indicates a sophisticated society capable of organizing labor at a scale comparable to much later civilizations.

Q2: The Shang built cities, mastered bronze, developed writing, and created sophisticated art — all markers of 'civilization.' But they also conducted mass human sacrifice of war captives on a large scale, which challenges the idea that technological or cultural advancement necessarily comes with greater respect for human life.

Q3: A looted tomb has had its contents removed, moved, or destroyed, making it impossible to know what was originally included or how objects were positioned

relative to each other. Fu Hao's intact tomb preserved the exact arrangement and complete contents of a royal Shang burial, giving archaeologists an unaltered snapshot of Shang beliefs about death and status.