Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Sogdian merchants operated across multiple empires and cultures without belonging fully to any of them, making them difficult for authorities to categorize. This between-worlds position was actually their strength — they served as brokers precisely because they were trusted (or at least tolerated) by multiple parties who might not trust each other.

2. Nanaivandak's observation that the Chinese are now making their own glass illustrates the reading's point that trade routes carried technology transfer as well as goods. Once Chinese artisans learned the technique, they could produce locally what they had previously imported, showing how the Silk Road spread manufacturing knowledge between civilizations.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. A

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) geographer, 2) Sogdian (accept Sanskrit or Uyghur), 3) Sogdians

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Buddhism traveled east from India and Central Asia into China via the Silk Road, transforming Chinese religion and culture. The paper-making technology developed in China was transmitted westward through Sogdian and Arab intermediaries, eventually reaching Europe and transforming literacy and record-keeping.

Q2: Unlike official court records, the Sogdian letters are personal business communications that describe real prices, road conditions, dangers from bandits, and the writer's actual situation. They give historians a ground-level view of how the trade network actually functioned from the perspective of the merchants who ran it.

Q3: The presence of objects that could only have come from a specific distant culture provides physical proof that goods crossed thousands of kilometers in antiquity. A Roman coin in a Chinese tomb could not have gotten there by accident —

it had to be carried, traded, and deliberately placed, demonstrating active long-distance exchange.