Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The reading notes that the silt covering flooded sites may actually be preserving them in low-oxygen conditions similar to other rich underwater sites, and that future underwater excavation technology could recover data from the reservoir. Huang Min's hope is grounded in real precedent — other apparently lost sites have been revisited as technology improved.

2. The old man's family used an artifact from the same site to survive a difficult winter — the heritage being flooded was not abstract history but part of living people's memories and economic survival. This complicates the debate because it shows that even before the dam, local communities had complex relationships with the archaeological record that went beyond preservation versus destruction.

Multiple Choice

1. B

2. C

3. A

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) 1.3, 2) 50,000, 3) impact

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: As a triumph, the dam is the world's largest hydroelectric project, generating enormous clean electricity, controlling floods that had historically killed thousands, and demonstrating China's engineering capability. As a tragedy, it drowned 600 km of inhabited gorge, displaced 1.3 million people, and permanently submerged 1,000+ archaeological sites representing tens of thousands of years of human history.

Q2: The reading cites Egypt's Aswan Dam flooding Nubian sites and Turkey's Ataturk Dam threatening ancient Tigris-Euphrates valley sites as parallel cases. These examples show that the tension between development and heritage preservation is a global challenge faced by all developing nations — not a specifically Chinese problem or a sign of disregard for history.

Q3: The urgency funded excavations at sites that might never have been investigated otherwise, produced remarkable finds like 50,000-year-old occupation

evidence at Zigui, and drove development of faster survey and documentation techniques. Negatively, the impossible timeline meant many sites were excavated hastily, some not at all, and the quality of work was necessarily compromised by the race against the rising water.