Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. His account is a near-contemporary eyewitness description of ritual action, ship use, and status display. It still needs caution because he was an outsider interpreting unfamiliar practices through his own assumptions.

2. The funeral includes spectators, speeches, symbolic objects, sacrifice, and the dramatic burning of the ship. Those choices communicate rank and belief to the living community.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. B

3. C

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) cremation, 2) grave goods, 3) Ibn Fadlan

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Objects in graves could reflect status, symbolism, family memory, ritual belief, or practical identity. A sword or spindle tool may represent more than one idea at once.

Q2: They use an expensive and highly visible symbol of mobility and power to honor the dead. The labor and materials required make the burial itself a display of wealth and authority.

Q3: It tells us how the living staged memory, rank, and ritual for the dead. It cannot automatically reveal every detail of daily life, because funerals are carefully constructed social performances.