Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. A DNA result may show patterns of ancestry, but identity also involves language, culture, law, and historical experience. Genetics cannot by itself prove that someone belonged to a Viking-age social world.

2. It shows a strength of DNA research, because Maya's result links part of her ancestry to medieval Scandinavian migration in the British Isles. That matches the reading's point that DNA can sometimes track the people themselves. It also shows a limit, because the museum panel explains that ancestry is not the same thing as identity. The reading makes the same argument when it says genetic ancestry is not the same thing as identity.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. A

3. B

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) DNA, 2) intermarriage, 3) context

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: It shows that Viking-age populations were regionally varied and affected by movement and mixing. The Norse world connected many places, so biological diversity is exactly what we should expect.

Q2: Genetics can reveal ancestry and biological relationships, while archaeology explains burial context, daily life, and cultural practice. The strongest conclusions come from combining both kinds of evidence.

Q3: Such myths ignore the diversity and movement that the evidence actually shows. They treat ancestry as destiny and erase the cultural, social, and historical complexity of the Viking world.