Question 8 (10 marks)

To what extent has research since the end of the 1960s changed our understanding of the evidence from the sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum?

In your answer, refer to Sources F and G and your own knowledge.

Much research has been done since the discovery of Pompeii and Herculaneum. It was not until Guiseppe Fiorelli came along that there was any structure to the excavations. He had worked on strategically excavating the towns of Pompeii, working from room to room and organising the items in chronological order.

There was also the organisation of paintings and categorised into groups depicting nature, wall reliefs. This gave more insight to the different types of paintings, there were throughout Pompeii and Herculaneum. Another reason researcher had excavated chronologically down the main street of Pompeii, and it wasn’t until the end of 1960’s that anyone had even kept records of the excavations or objects.

Another reason researcher had worked on rebuilding

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and fixing buildings that had been destroyed during the
eruptions, especially the top floors of houses as
they had not survived the pyroclastic surges.

There was also the invention of plaster casts,
which enabled scientists to see what the last
moments of the Pompeians and Herculaneums was
like. Plaster was filled into holes which show
of where dead bodies were of Pompeians and
Herculaneums once was and when extracted exact
plaster casts of human bodies were seen.
This has changed our understanding of the last
moments, and it shows signs of extreme agony and
pain, with civilians covering their faces and lying
in fetal position.

There were also two excavators who worked
on excavating and researching the bodies. Which
was Sarah Bizal, and Estel Lazer. Sarah Bizal
had devised her own ideas of which each body
had done and contained in comparison to
Estel Lazer, who went off facts. The body there
was a lot of Herculaneums on the beach, and
this shows us that the Herculaneums were
trying to escape and many would have whereas
leave in Pompeii, nobody thought to leave until
it was too late. Both the cities had very
poor teeth, this is probably because of the
small rocks that were in their bread which they
most probably ate everyday.

End of Question 8