

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.

Before 1960's in early excavations, research and uncovering was hasty, unsystematic and poorly documented. This meant lots of evidence and information was lost, broken and not protected. ~~No~~ After 1960's research into the sites has become more systematic making it easier to find and understand. The Italian Giuseppe Fiorelli introduced a scientific and systematic method to the excavations and research into the sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum. A major implementation was ensuring that all findings were recorded properly so if the evidence was lost, the information about the findings still remained. This has allowed researchers today to use the information gathered years ago to further enhance our understanding and knowledge of the site. Fiorelli's technique of dividing Pompeii into nine regions, numbering every block or insulae. Then numbering every door located in that insulae ~~more~~ has made research considerably easier. It allows places to be easily located on a map and also has highlighted the Greek architectural techniques the Pompeians have used in their town planning. This includes raised footpaths on the side of roads, parallel box like view from above. The technique employed

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by August Mau has effectively incorporated various artworks found amongst Pompeii into one of four categories. This provides valuable insight into the artistic life of Pompeii, what was popular and what was considered valuable. The technique of examining human remains which have been dismembered has been employed by an Australian woman to show the distribution of people, age, size, gender, killed in eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79. Research into this evidence has allowed us to gain an understanding of what the people in Pompeii and Herculaneum were like. For example that the average male height was 167cm and the average female height was 155cm. Restoring the facades of streets along the via dell'abbondanza, also creating a greater understanding of what it would have looked + been like to walk down a street in Pompeii. Research into Roman houses showed these were very similar to that of Pompeii.

Research into Herculaneum is limited because it is still buried under 24m of ash.

End of Question 8