**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.

With changing time comes changing interpretations. This can be as a result of advancing technology, values and understanding relating to Pompeii and Herculaneum. This is exemplified by both Source F: the excavated human remains from Herculaneum, as well as Source C: an extract from Allison’s PhD thesis.

To... translate a... cubicle as a bedroom, or class as a dining room, is to assume that an unchanging function has been established for these excavated spaces. This quote... deep recognition the fact that a somewhat ignorant approach has been taken in regards...
Question 8 (continued)

to the interpretation of evidence
found at sites in Pompeii and Herculaneum.
It has been assumed that their world
functioned very similarly to our own, thus
rooms that appear as bedrooms (cubiculae)
must be bedroom, when in fact, that is
not necessarily the case at all.

New technology has played a large part
in the changing of interpretations. For example,
NASA imaging technology being used to
scan 1800 papyrus scrolls from the
House of Papyri. Or even
Photographing being used to take a large aerial view
photo of the whole of Pompeii and Herculaneum
in order to gain some understanding into
how some walls functioned and where certain
artwork would go. New theories have also
been suggested, such as with Jay Port’s
petrological thin slice analysis of pottery, indicating
that instead of Pompeian pottery being exported as
first thought, it could also have been imported
as a large amount of the materials used
came from Turkey. Andrew Wallace-Hadrill’s
analysis of the number of brothels in Pompeii
and Herculaneum is also an example of this. Through the
analysis of Source Ford C, as well as others, it is clear to see
that research since the end of the 1960’s has played a
great role in terms of changing interpretations towards
evidence found at Pompeii and Herculaneum.

End of Question 8