**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.

Research since the 1960s has changed our understanding of the evidence from Pompeii and Herculaneum through new technologies and changing attitudes according to context.

New technology has allowed a deeper understanding of the Vesuvian people through the study of human remains. Their human remains, pictured in Source E, would be difficult to study as with the similar remains of the ‘London Plague’ victims. With the introduction of x-ray technology, Estelle Lazare’s study of this skeleton allowed a modern understanding of Pompeii’s ‘burial ground’ and well-nourished population (Sources). We can share her age, sex and state of health at the time of her eruption.

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Question 8 (continued)

Changing attitudes towards the past since the 1960’s has altered the scope of understanding in Pompeii and Herculaneum. It is now vital to view that context is essential to studying these ancient sites. Source: Capri Allison notes that the ideal of a Latin term, directly translating to a modern equivalent, is an “unrealised assumption”. This is evident in renaming, in the context of Pompeii and Herculaneum, many terms have been changed. The “unchanging function” of nature as society is unchanged today.

A further technology which changes understanding of evidence is the use of medical imaging to help decipher faded scrawls from the Villa of the Papiggi. The use of digital imaging causes the ink to appear in a greater contrast to the white background. Such use, hastening its discovery, has increased big up to 60% for the Villa. Conservation vital, losses which once fully documented will allow a deeper understanding of these ancient societies.

It is the understanding, since the late 1960’s, that modern society does not translate directly to the context of the Vesuvian cities, along with the development of new technologies, which allows a deeper understanding of archaeological evidence.

End of Question 8