

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.

..... New research ~~since~~ since the end of the 1960s has greatly changed our understanding of the evidence from the archaeological sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum. New research has permitted a greater insight into the everyday life of the people at Pompeii and Herculaneum.

..... Source F shows a photograph of an excavated human's remains. The source shows some of the aspects of wealth of the people through the jewelry worn, such as the rings of the person's fingers and the bracelets at the bottom of the picture. New research would also have permitted an understanding of how this individual died, either through natural causes, exposure to extreme heat in the eruption of 79 AD or asphyxiation from the poisonous gases from the eruption. All this was made possible through the research conducted by Estelle Lazer in ~~Hercul~~ Herculaneum.

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She also discovered the strange occurrence of the skeletons in the bath house as their bones boiled and exploded due to exposure to the extreme heat from the pyroclastic flows. The archaeologist Sarah Bittel, through the study of skeletons, understood the general health and lifestyle of the inhabitants of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Source G shows how the understanding of Pompeian households has changed as a result of research since the 1960s. Previously it was thought they were run similarly to modern day households however new research shows that the rooms were used for a variety of purposes and could have been re-arranged for different activities such as hosting a dinner party to converting the room into a bedroom very quickly. This was seen through the light arrangement of the furniture and its scarcity amongst the houses, even the houses of the rich. Source G shows how the houses do not necessarily have a modern equivalent, such as the terms used in the translations of rooms and their purposes.

The research since the 1960s has greatly impacted historical understanding as new meanings and ideas as well as scientific evidence have come to ~~the~~ light, causing historians to re-think their interpretation of everyday life and the eruption in Pompeii and Herculaneum.

End of Question 8