

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 ~~inter~~ interpretations. This can be ^{seen} 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 G; an ~~extract~~ from Allison's PhD thesis.

"To... translate a... cubiculum as a bedroom, or oecus as a dining room, is to ~~assume~~ that an unchanging function has been established for these excavated spaces." This quote ~~deeply recognises the fact~~ from Source G, deeply recognises the fact that a somewhat ignorant approach has been taken in regards

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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 (cubiculum) 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 Papyr. Or even ~~photo~~ Photographs being used to take a large aerial view photo of the whole of Pompeii and Herculaneum in order to gain some understanding into ~~how~~ how some walls functioned and where certain artwork would go. New theories have also been suggested, such as with Jay Pont'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 F and G 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