

Classical Studies – The Roman World

Part A — Pompeii

2014

1. Describe the different types of shops and businesses there were in Pompeii. 4
2. To what extent did religion play an important role in the lives of the people of Pompeii? 8

You should explain different aspects of religion and come to a reasoned conclusion.

Source A (below) is the cast from Pompeii of a victim of the eruption of Vesuvius.



Source B (below) is from Pliny the Younger's *Letters*.

The courtyard outside, from which the room was entered, was full of ash and pumice stones. The level of the fallen material was rising so, if there was any further delay in the room, the escape would have been blocked.

3. Explain what Sources A and B tell us about the dangers of the eruption of Vesuvius.

You should identify the relevant information in the sources and explain what they mean. 4

4. Evaluate the usefulness of Source A for understanding what happened to the victims of the eruption of Vesuvius.

You could comment on who produced it, when it was produced, why it was made, what it shows and what it does not tell us about the victims. 4

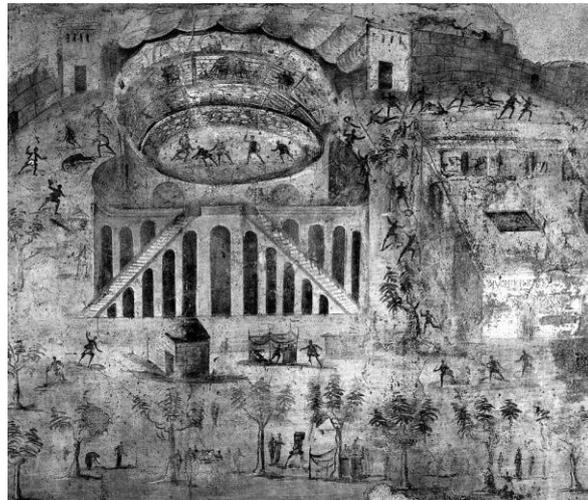
2015

7. Describe the eruption of Vesuvius and its effects on the town of Pompeii. 4

8. To what extent did Pompeii provide many opportunities for people to make a living? 8

You should explain different aspects of making a living in Pompeii and come to a reasoned conclusion.

Source A (below) is a wall painting that shows a riot at the amphitheatre between spectators from Pompeii and the neighbouring town of Nuceria.



Source B (below) is an extract from a letter written by the Roman philosopher Seneca in 1st century AD describing a visit to the amphitheatre in Rome.

It was pure murder. The men have no way to protect themselves. They leave their bodies wide open, and every blow counts. There's no helmet or shield to interfere with the swordplay. Who needs armour? Who needs skill? Such things only postpone the moment of death. In the morning they throw men to the lions and the bears, at noon they throw them to the crowd.

9. Explain what Sources A and B tell us about the experience of going to the amphitheatre. 4

You should identify the relevant information in the sources and explain what they mean.

10. Evaluate the usefulness of Source B for telling us about the experience of going to the amphitheatre. 4

You could comment on who wrote it, when they wrote it, what they say, why they say it and what has been missed out.

2016

7. Explain the reasons why religion was important to the people of Pompeii. 6

8. Describe the different types of leisure activities and entertainment available to the people of Pompeii. 6

Source A (below) is a wall painting found in the House of the Baker in Pompeii.



Source B (below) is from *The Golden Ass*, by Apuleius (2nd century AD).

I was extremely tired from turning the mill; even so I took care to observe the way this unpleasant workplace was run . . . Good gods! What wretched slaves they were who worked in the bakery, their skin picked out all over with dark bruises, and their backs scarred where they had been whipped. There were foreheads branded with letters, hair half shaved off, ankles in shackles; their faces were yellow, their eyes damaged by the thick smoke and the clouds of steam from the ovens, so that they were barely able to see. A layer of flour, like ash, made them a dirty white colour.

9. Explain what Sources A and B tell us about bakeries in Pompeii. 4

You should identify the relevant information in the sources and explain what they mean.

10. Evaluate the usefulness of Source A for describing the different tasks involved in working in a bakery. 4

You could comment on the type of source, when it was produced, what it shows, why it was made or what it does not show about working in a bakery.

2017

7. Describe a temple found in Pompeii. 4

8. To what extent were the effects of the eruption of Vesuvius disastrous to the town and people of Pompeii? 8

You should explain different aspects of the eruption of Vesuvius and its effects and come to a reasoned conclusion.

Source A (below) is a picture of the cold room found in a Pompeian bath house.



Source B (below) is a letter written by Seneca, (1st century AD).

My dear Lucilius,

Here I am, surrounded by all kinds of noise (my lodgings overlook a bath-house). I hear the grunts of musclemen exercising and lifting those heavy weights around. I hear their sharp hissing when they release their breath. If there happens to be a lazy man content with a simple massage I hear the slap of his hand on the customer's shoulder. Add to this the noise of a man who likes the sound of his own voice in the bath, plus those who plunge into the pool with a huge splash of water. Besides those who just have loud voices, imagine the armpit-hair plucker whose cries are shrill so as to draw people's attention and never stop except when he's doing his job and making someone else shriek for him.

9. Explain what Sources A and B tell us about a visit to a Pompeian bathhouse. 4

You should identify the relevant pieces of information in the sources and explain what they mean.

10. Evaluate the usefulness of Source B for describing a bath house and the type of leisure enjoyed there. 4

You could comment on who wrote it, when they wrote it, what they say, why they say it or what it has missed out.

2018

9. Describe the typical experience of a Pompeian attending a day out at the Large Theatre. 4

10. Explain the reasons why it could be said that working in a laundry/fullery was an unpleasant experience. 6

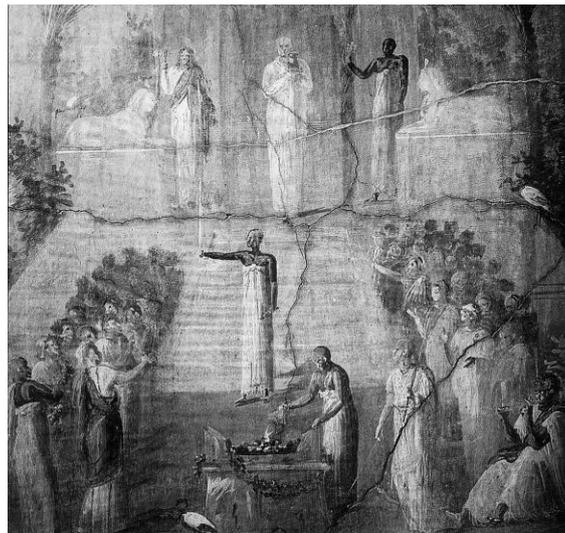
11. To what extent do the Pompeian plaster casts provide useful information about the victims of the eruption of Vesuvius? 8

You should explain different aspects of the usefulness of the plaster casts and come to a reasoned conclusion.

12. Compare the working conditions in a bakery in Pompeii with the working conditions in a bakery in the modern world. 4

You should identify similarities and differences between the working conditions in a bakery in Pompeii and in the modern world.

Source A (below) is a wall painting showing the worship of Isis in 79 AD.



Source B (below) is from a speech delivered by a politician called Cicero (1st century BC).

Nothing is more religious than the home of each citizen. There, the head of the household leads his family and slaves in daily worship. He has his shrine, where he worships his household gods, the lares and penates, and his fireside where he honours Vesta, the goddess of the hearth. It is in his home that he performs the religious rituals and ceremonies that keep his home and family safe.

13. Explain what Sources A and B tell us about the worship of gods in Pompeii. 4

You should identify the relevant pieces of information in the sources and explain what they mean.

14. Evaluate the usefulness of Source B for describing the worship of gods in Pompeii. 4

You could comment on who wrote it, when they wrote it, what they say, why they say it or what it has missed out.