

READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 13-26**, which are based on Reading Passage 2 below.

Trash Talk

Sorting through a mountain of pottery to track the Roman oil trade

(A) In the middle of Rome’s trendiest neighborhood, surrounded by sushi restaurants and nightclubs with names like Rodeo Steakhouse and Love Story, sits the ancient world’s biggest garbage dump—a 150-foot-tall mountain of discarded Roman amphoras, the shipping drums of the ancient world. It takes about 20 minutes to walk around Monte Testaccio, from the Latin *testa* and Italian *cocci*, both meaning “potsherd.” But despite its size—almost a mile in circumference—it’s easy to walk by and not really notice unless you are headed for some excellent pizza at *Velavevodetto*, a restaurant literally stuck into the mountain’s side. Most local residents don’t know what’s underneath the grass, dust, and scattering of trees. Monte Testaccio looks like a big hill, and in Rome people are accustomed to hills.

(B) Although a garbage dump may lack the attraction of the Forum or Colosseum, I have come to Rome to meet the team excavating Monte Testaccio and to learn how scholars are using its evidence to understand the ancient Roman economy. As the modern global economy depends on light sweet crude, so too the ancient Romans depended on oil—olive oil. And for more than 250 years, from at least the first century A.D., an enormous number of amphoras filled with olive oil came by ship from the Roman provinces into the city itself, where they were unloaded, emptied, and then taken to Monte Testaccio and thrown away. In the absence of written records or literature on the subject, studying these amphoras is the best way to answer some of the most vexing questions concerning the Roman economy—How did it operate? How much control did the emperor exert over it? Which sectors were supported by the state and which operated in a free market environment or in the private sector?

(C) Monte Testaccio stands near the Tiber River in what was ancient Rome’s commercial district. Many types of imported foodstuffs, including oil, were brought into the city and then stored for later distribution in the large warehouses that lined the river. So, professor, just how many amphoras are there?” I ask José Remesal of the University of Barcelona, co-director of the Monte Testaccio excavations. It’s the same question that must occur to everyone who visits the site when they realize that the crunching sounds their footsteps make are not from walking on fallen leaves, but on pieces of amphoras. (Don’t worry, even the small pieces are very

sturdy.) Remesal replies in his deep baritone, “Something like 25 million complete ones. Of course, it’s difficult to be exact,” he adds with a typical Mediterranean shrug. I, for one, find it hard to believe that the whole mountain is made of amphoras without any soil or rubble. Seeing the incredulous look on my face as I peer down into a 10-foot-deep trench, Remesal says, “Yes, it’s really only amphoras.” I can’t imagine another site in the world where archaeologists find so much—about a ton of pottery every day. On most Mediterranean excavations, pottery washing is an activity reserved for blisteringly hot afternoons when digging is impossible. Here, it is the only activity for most of Remesal’s team, an international group of specialists and students from Spain and the United States. During each year’s two-week field season, they wash and sort thousands of amphoras handles, bodies, shoulders, necks, and tops, counting and cataloguing, and always looking for stamped names, painted names, and numbers that tell each amphora’s story.

(D) Although scholars worked at Monte Testaccio beginning in the late 19th century, it’s only within the past 30 years that they have embraced the role amphoras can play in understanding the nature of the Roman imperial economy. According to Remesal, the main challenge archaeologists and economic historians face is the lack of “serial documentation,” that is, documents for consecutive years that reflect a true chronology. This is what makes Monte Testaccio a unique record of Roman commerce and provides a vast amount of datable evidence in a clear and unambiguous sequence. “There’s no other place where you can study economic history, food production and distribution, and how the state controlled the transport of a product,” Remesal says. “It’s really remarkable.”

Questions 13-16

Reading Passage 2 has four paragraphs **A-D**. Which paragraph contains what information? Write the correct letter, **A-D**, in boxes **13-16** on your answer sheet.

13. Questions about the Roman economy

14. A unique feature

15. Description of the dump

16. Dialogue with a professor

Questions 17–21

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 2?

In boxes 17–21 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

17. World's biggest garbage dump is surrounded by restaurants and nightclubs.

18. The garbage dump is as popular as the Colosseum in Rome.

19. Ancient Roman economy depended on oil.

20. There is no information on how many amphoras are there.

21. Remesal says that Monte Testaccio is a great place to study economics.

Questions 22–26

Complete the sentences below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 22–26 on your answer sheet.

22. It is unknown for what's underneath the grass, dust, and scattering of trees.

23. Monte Testaccio stands near the ancient Rome's .
24. Remesal doesn't believe that the whole mountain is made of without any soil or rubble.
25. Remesal's team washes and sorts thousands of amphoras each year's two-week .
26. started working at Monte Testaccio in the late 19th century.
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Answers on next page

ANSWERS

Each question correctly answered scores 1 mark. **Correct** spelling is needed in all answers.

Section 2

13. B
14. D
15. A
16. C
17. True
18. False
19. True
20. False
21. True
22. Most local residents
23. Commercial district
24. Amphoras
25. Field season
26. Scholars