Know the News: Pompeii’s Secrets

Read the article, then answer these questions.

1. Which is a central idea of the article?
   A Few Pompeians were probably paying attention to Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D.
   B The location of Pompeii was lost for centuries.
   C The Great Pompeii Project seeks to learn more about how Pompeians lived and died.
   D More than 3 million people visited the ancient site last year.

2. Which statement best supports that central idea?
   A “Today, the site is extremely fragile.”
   B “These images of people at the moment of death bear haunting witness to Pompeii’s fate.”
   C “But for more than a century, most attempts to excavate the sites were done haphazardly.”
   D “The ultimate goal... is to construct ancient Roman life ‘as though we have taken close-up photographs of a society 2,000 years ago.’”

3. Which of these has threatened the ancient ruins?
   A multiple earthquakes
   B bombing during World War II
   C centuries of natural and human damage
   D all of the above

4. The article indicates that Pompeii was a thriving port city and seaside resort. Which of these details does not support that claim?
   A Pompeii was about 5 miles from Vesuvius.
   B It was in the heart of the Roman Empire.
   C It traded with every corner of the Roman Empire.
   D Wealthy Romans had vacation homes there.

5. Why might the uncovering of Pompeii have been “a major event in world history”?
   A No one had known previously about the eruption of Vesuvius.
   B Excavations revealed that Pompeians had a diet rich in whole grains, fruits, nuts, and fish.
   C The location of the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum had become lost.
   D Pompeii’s ruins formed the most detailed picture of an ancient Roman city ever found.

6. What evidence from the article suggests that Pompeians had good nutrition?
   A Workers found intact loaves of bread and eggs still in their shells.
   B Scans of the bones inside the plaster casts revealed that Pompeians had strong teeth.
   C It is known that nutritionists from all over the Roman Empire visited the city.
   D Many skeletons were preserved in volcanic ash.

7. Why might a scientist have called Vesuvius “the most dangerous volcano in the world”?
   A The volcano has erupted often.
   B In the event of an eruption, it would be difficult to evacuate the 3 million people who live near Vesuvius.
   C An eruption in 1631 killed 6,000 people.
   D Pompeii was buried in 30 feet of ash.

8. Based on CT scans, what killed most of the victims in the plaster casts?
   A falling rock and collapsing buildings
   B people fleeing the city in a panic
   C fire from the volcano
   D hot gases

9. What is the main purpose of the map?
   A to show the location of European countries
   B to point out the location of Rome
   C to show the places that traded with Pompeii
   D to show the vast reach of the Roman Empire

10. Based on context clues, what does haphazardly mean in this statement?
    “But for more than a century, most attempts to excavate the sites were done haphazardly.
    In 1863, the Italian archaeologist Giuseppe Fiorelli finally began to unearth Pompeii in a systematic way.”
    A all at once
    B at great cost
    C dishonestly
    D without order