

# Assignment #3: The Tiber Valley Survey

Please follow the link and download *The Changing Landscapes of Rome's Northern Hinterland*(2020):  
<https://www.archaeopress.com/ArchaeopressShop/Public/displayProductDetail.asp?id=%7B5B092BCB-89F4-4EA0-94FF-811F304B3B27%7D>

This assignment will introduce you to a complex interpretation of decades of survey data from the region north of Rome. Your assignment will require you to search through the book and summarize answers to the questions below. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO READ THIS ENTIRE BOOK.** But you should familiarize yourself with its format, the table of contents, and read the introduction and conclusion. The questions contain clues to help figure out which sections of the book you need to investigate.

Please answer **ALL QUESTIONS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED**. You may use point-form or full sentences. Also, unlike the previous two assignments, referencing is required: **YOU MUST INCLUDE A PAGE NUMBER WITH YOUR ANSWER**. Placing page numbers in brackets, like:(pg 56), is sufficient. **IF YOU DONOT NOTE THE PAGE NUMBER, YOUR ANSWER IS MARKED 0 UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.** This .docx file will allow you to type your answers into pre-set text boxes. Please do not alter the format of the document.

## Chapter 1: The Tiber Valley Project: an introduction (7 pts)

It was practical, the area was relatively close to the British School at Rome (BSR)

It was possible to engage a large workforce on a limited budget, including BSR residents who were not archaeologists but would participate. Important due to limited funds for the project.  
(page 3)

1. What are the two reasons that the Tiber Valley was chosen for this research program? (2pts)

2. How large was the Tiber Valley project (in square kilometers) and what chronological span did it cover? (2 pts)

The Tiber Valley project covered 3500 square kilometers, covering the chronological span of 1000 BCE to 1000 CE.

(page 1)

3. What are the three levels activity that comprised this research programme? (3 pts)

Level 1: Create a comprehensive database to incorporate material from all of the rural sites from the South Etruria Survey, unpublished BSR work, and Italian surveys.

Level 2: Parallel thematic studies involving both fieldwork and study/restudy of finds

Level 3: Development of several new projects coordinated with the aims of the overall research project in mind. (page 6-8)

## Chapter 2: The middle Tiber valley: history of studies and project methodologies (9 pts)

4. What was the most significant reason that archaeological research around Rome experienced a 'gear change' in the last quarter of the nineteenth century? And how did this affect the countryside (Campagna)? (2 pts)

Rome's new status as the nation's capital was the most significant cause of a gear change in archaeological research. Required major and rapid development of urban infrastructure, leading to discovery and destruction of huge amounts of archaeology.

This affected the countryside as urban developments spilled over into the Campagna, resulting in construction of suburbs, roads, railway lines, and the expansion of agriculture. (page 11)

5. What was the name of Tim Potter's brief published overview of the South Etruria Survey? And what was a particular innovation of that survey (hint: it has a military connection)? (2 pts)

Name: The Changing Landscape of South Etruria (page 12)

Innovation: Systematic approach developed a system for recording site details and materials in a pre-printed record card. (page 20)

6. Using Figure 2.10 (page 29), what diagnostic ceramic classes best fit with the following date ranges? You don't need to include a page number with this question. (2 pts)

<b>400 to 150 BCE</b>	Painted Black Glaze
<b>700 to 400 BCE</b>	Bucchero
<b>50 BCE to 175 CE</b>	Terra Sigillata Italica
<b>500 BCE to 700 CE</b>	Roman Amphorae

7. What are three differences between how the South Etruria Survey and the Tiber Valley Project classified villas? (3 pts)

Tiber Valley Project requires significant quantities of pottery (both fine and coarse-wares)

Tiber Valley Project uses architectural complexity as a possible identifier of a villa

South Etruria Survey requires more frequent indicators of luxury

(page 41-42)

### Chapter 3: The protohistoric to late Republican landscapes of the middle Tiber valley (9 pts)

8. Where are Bronze Age settlements located in the Sabina?(3 pts)

Located on hills overlooking the Tiber river, at the confluence of rivers, or on high ground further inland facing the Apennine areas reached by transhumance routes.

(page 76)

9. The fifth century BCE was interpreted very differently between the South Etruria Survey and the Tiber Valley Project. Describe the main differences. (2 pts)

Originally no recognition of signs of interruption in territorial occupation, seems to show signs of settlement stability registering rapid and continuous growth.

The restudy in the Tiber Valley Project reconstructs a different picture of sharp decline in settlement numbers, only one quarter of the sites continued while the others were abandoned.

(page 93)

10. One conclusion of the Tiber Valley Project and South Etruria Survey restudy suggests that the Settlement of the Republican period was “anything but homogeneous and linear, both in terms of geography and chronology”. Outline the Republican settlement history starting with the settlement boom of the archaic period. Include any periods of decline, crisis, and revival in occupation(4 pts)

After the settlement boom of the Archaic period, period of slow decline with brief attempts at revival.

These attempts were halted by two moments of crisis during 4th-5th and 3rd-2nd centuries BCE.

These periods alternated with revivals in occupation in the first half of the 3rd century BCE. These revivals did not reach the levels of the Archaic and Augustan periods. (page 113)

## Chapter 4: The early and mid-imperial landscapes of the middle Tiber valley (c. 50 bc–ad 250) (16 pts)

11. What does Witcher mean when he says “the transition from Republic to Principate was a time of both radical change and deep-rooted continuity”? (2 pts)

Affected the political, social, culture, economic life of Rome, the Tiber Valley, and the Empire, while keeping elements of continuity from Rome's imperial past.

(page 117)

12. What three key themes shaped scholarly accounts of the middle Tiber valley in the imperial period? (3 pts)

New social groups  
Changing Landowners  
Veteran settlements

(page 120)

13. One of the most significant environmental developments of the early and mid-imperial periods in the middle Tiber valley was the acceleration of soil erosion and deposition. What does geomorphological and archaeological studies demonstrate? (2 pts)

Rivers begin to down-cut valleys, replacing meandering watercourses with deep incised rivers  
Increase in soil washed down from the hills into the rivers  
Flooding frequency increased, indicated by excavations of roads covered in thick alluvium

(page 124)

14. In terms of the pottery evidence, what two periods are the best documented of any centuries between 1000 BCE and 1000 CE? Aside from the ‘catch-all’ category of ‘All other pottery’, which ware type is found most often between 50 BCE and 120 CE? (3 pts)

Early and Mid-Imperial periods are the best documented periods between 1000 BCE to 1000 CE with the majority of datable artefacts collected.

Most found ware type between 50 BCE to 120 CE: Terra Sigillata Italica

(page 126-127)

15. Tim Potter said that, with only seven towns in an area of 2000 km<sup>2</sup>, southern Etruria was thinly urbanized. However, compared to other Italian regions, this area is one of the most densely urbanized in the western empire. How can we explain this situation? Also, note the economic mechanism for why this region appears thinly urbanized.(3 pts)

Explanation: Smaller towns compared to other regions without any large urban centers, proximity to Rome.

Economic Mechanism: Urban demand from the city contributed to rural economy while undermining political independence and economic function of suburban towns.

(page 150)

16. What is the key site in the debate about the early origins of the villa? When was it first occupied and how many phases of redevelopment did it undergo?(3 pts)

Villa of the Auditorium in the North Rome suburbs

First occupied in archaic period, underwent at least 4 major phases of redevelopment.

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## Chapter 5: The late antique landscapes of the middle Tiber valley: the mid-third to mid-sixth centuries AD (9 pts)

17. What are the two contrasting visions proposed regarding the settlement and social organization in Italy from 400 to 900 CE? Which scholars took which sides? (2 pts)

Catastrophe: Results of original analysis in South Etruria shows a steady decline in rural settlements. Archaeologists mostly took this side.

Continuity: Religious and funerary evidence from documents did not validate the catastrophe hypothesis. Historians mostly took this side.

(page 208-209)

18. From the beginning of the third century CE in the Sabina (maybe earlier), the rural settlement system changed dramatically. Describe the two main observations of this rural transformation. (2 pts)

Sharp fall in the number of rural settlements, over half of them were abandoned by the third century.

Imperial villas were continually occupied, villa rustica and farms were being increasingly abandoned.

(page 219)

19. New late antique settlements are rare. What is the date range for 'late antique 2', from which time period do most new settlements date, and where were these new sites often established? (3 pts)

Date Range: 450-550 CE

Time Period: Second half of the fifth century

Location: New settlements often established on the site of imperial villas abandoned in the early to mid third century CE.

(page 223)

20. In the imperial period, the imperial period the predominance of pigs over sheep and goat is a widespread phenomenon. From the fourth century these patterns of agrarian practices, animal husbandry, and diet changed. What was the new consumption pattern of meat consumption

New consumption pattern of meat consumption changed to focus on goat and sheep

Likely reason was increased impoverishment due to their relative value to pigs, converting previously cultivated land to pastures, being able to shear wool from sheep.

(page 249-250)

between urban and rural areas, and what is the likely reason for this change? (2 pts)

ASSIGNMENT GRADE: /50