

READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–13**, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

The Pyramid of Cestius

A 2,000-year-old pyramid in the city of Rome has been restored by archaeologists.

Though Rome draws tourists from around the world to its many impressive sites, one notable monument there has never attracted nearly as much interest: the Pyramid of Cestius. But why would there be a pyramid in Italy? After the Roman conquest of Egypt in 30 B.C., Egyptian architectural style became the fashion in Rome.

Though obelisks and other monuments inspired by Egypt's great pyramids sprang up around the city, only two actual pyramids are known to have been built. The only one left standing, the Pyramid of Cestius, was designed as the burial pyramid for a Roman politician named Caius Cestius, who ordered that the building work be completed within a period of 330 days. Construction took place at some point between 18 B.C. and 12 B.C. Cestius' pyramid had a layer of white Carrara marble on the outside, and was constructed from brick held together by a basic kind of cement on the inside. One of the things that strikes you when you look at the pyramid is how steep it is, so that the shape of Cestius' pyramid is quite unlike that of typical Egyptian ones. This is a difference that could have been the result of inaccurate information sent back to Rome by soldiers who saw the pyramids in person in Egypt. Alternatively, Roman builders could have drawn inspiration from the pyramids in Nubia, a region located in what is today northern Sudan and southern Egypt.

At the time of its construction, since there was a strict Roman law prohibiting the placement of tombs within the city itself, the Pyramid of Cestius would have stood in the countryside. Rome grew enormously during the next two centuries, and, by the 3rd century A.D., the pyramid would have been surrounded by buildings. We also know that in the 3rd century A.D., the Pyramid of Cestius was hidden behind a high wall on the orders of Emperor Aurelian; this probably helped it survive throughout the centuries to come, even as other ancient monuments disappeared. By the Middle Ages, the pyramid was covered in vegetation and thick dirt, and popular myth had developed that it might be a tomb for one of the twin brothers Romulus and Remus, who were regarded as the men who had established the city of Rome. Cestius' actual tomb within the pyramid and the inscription identifying the pyramid as his weren't rediscovered until the 1660s, when the pyramid underwent restoration. During excavations, when trees and plants were cleared away, two marble bases were found in front of the pyramid, as well as fragments of bronze statues that had once stood on them, on either side of the pyramid. The people employed to excavate the pyramid did not find the urn that would have contained Cestius' remains, but they did come across a tunnel. It was quite possible, therefore, that robbers had at some earlier time removed the contents of the tomb. But while some of the features of Cestius' tomb no longer exist, at least the pyramid itself has survived.

Today, the foundations of Cestius' pyramid rest below street level near an intersection with heavy traffic, so that passing tourists and residents could easily fail to notice its full height of 119 feet. Across the intersection is the Piramide station, located on Line B of the Rome Metro. In 2011, the Japanese clothing-company entrepreneur Yuzo Yagi, president of Yagi Tsusho Ltd, announced his intention to help the Italian government pay for an ambitious renovation of the Pyramid of Cestius. 'It's an act of gratitude,' he later told journalists. 'Our company has grown thanks to Italy.' Work began at the site shortly after Yagi signed an official agreement with the Special Superintendency for the Archaeological Heritage of Rome, and was completed ahead of schedule thanks to his 2-million-euro contribution.

As archaeologist Leonardo Guarnieri explained to journalists, officials are now conducting tours of the newly renovated pyramid twice a month by reservation. Visitors who take advantage of the tour can make their way through a narrow corridor in order to enter the burial chamber itself. It is within these walls that they can admire the frescoes: watercolour paintings typical of the time. In the chamber, it is possible to make out four frescoes of the winged Roman goddess of war, Victoria, a figure from Roman legend, as well as a series of vases, the type that would have been used for special rituals and purification purposes. We know from the writings of earlier visitors that there used to be more here, but the majority have disappeared over time. Only one problem remains now that the restoration is complete. The white exterior of the Pyramid of Cestius will have to be cleaned every few months to remove the layer of urban pollution. A team of free-climbers will be employed to do the job, in order to avoid placing builders' scaffolding around the newly welcoming monument.

Questions 1–7

Do the following statements agree with the information in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 1–7 on your answer sheet, write:

TRUE	<i>if the statement agrees with the information</i>
FALSE	<i>if the statement contradicts the information</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if there is no information about this</i>

- 1 The Pyramid of Cestius has always been one of Rome's most popular tourist attractions.
- 2 The construction of the Pyramid was completed before Cestius' death.
- 3 In the Middle Ages, people thought an original founder of Rome was buried in the Pyramid of Cestius.
- 4 Today, the height of the Pyramid is something that tourists and residents immediately notice.
- 5 Japanese businessman Yuzo Yagi was an admirer of both Italian and Egyptian architecture.
- 6 The restoration of the Pyramid of Cestius, which was funded by Yuzo Yagi, finished earlier than expected.
- 7 Most of the original frescoes inside Cestius' tomb have survived to this day.

Questions 8-13

Complete the notes below.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 8-13 on your answer sheet.

History of the Pyramid of Cestius

Construction of Cestius' pyramid

- it was made from **8** _____ marble and cement
- its **9** _____ is different to the pyramids found in Egypt
- it was originally built in the **10** _____ as building tombs in the city was forbidden
- Emperor Aurelian ordered that a wall had to be built around it

Restoration of Cestius' pyramid in the 1660s

- In the 1660s, some broken **11** _____ were found next to it
- the **12** _____ inside the tomb suggests that robbers had been there
- the frescoes show mythological scenes, and images of vases

Restoration of Cestius' pyramid today

- a Japanese businessman paid for its restoration
- climbers are helping to get rid of signs of **13** _____

判断题 (Questions 1–7)

题号	题干翻译	答案	精确定位 (段落/原句要点)	详细解释 (同义改写/排除)
1	凯斯提乌斯金字塔一直都是罗马最受欢迎的景点之一。	FALSE	第1段: “one notable monument ... has never attracted nearly as much interest: the Pyramid of Cestius.”	原文说“从未像其他景点那样受关注”，与“一直很受欢迎”相反，因此为 FALSE。
2	金字塔在凯斯提乌斯去世之前完工。	NOT GIVEN	第2段有: “who ordered that the building work be completed within a period of 330 days.” (下令在 330 天内完工)	文中未给出凯斯提乌斯去世时间与完工时间的直接比较，无法判断是否“在其去世之前”。只有“330 天内完工”的信息，故 NOT GIVEN。
3	中世纪时，人们认为罗马的开国者之一葬在此金字塔中。	TRUE	第3段: “popular myth ... might be a tomb for one of the twin brothers Romulus and Remus, who were regarded as the men who had established the city of Rome.”	题干的“an original founder”与原文“开城之双子之一 (罗慕路斯或瑞摩斯)”一致，故 TRUE。
4	今天金字塔的高度是游客和居民立刻能注意到的。	FALSE	第4段: “passing tourists and residents could easily fail to notice its full height of 119 feet.”	原文说“很容易注意不到”，与题干“立即注意到”相反，故 FALSE。
5	日本企业家八木佑三同时欣赏意大利和埃及建筑。	NOT GIVEN	第4段关于八木: 捐资修复、出于感恩; 未提其对“意大利与埃及建筑”的偏好。	文章没有任何关于他“欣赏埃及/意大利建筑”的表述，因而 NOT GIVEN。若据第1段“埃及风格在罗马流行”来推断也属越界。
6	在八木佑三资助下，金字塔的修复提前完成。	TRUE	第4段: “completed ahead of schedule thanks to his 2-million-euro contribution.”	“ahead of schedule=早于进度/比预期更早完成”，与题干“finished earlier than expected”同义，故 TRUE。
7	凯斯提乌斯基室中的大多数原始壁画至今仍保存。	FALSE	第5段: “there used to be more here, but the majority have disappeared over time.”	原文说“大多数已经消失”，与题干“多数仍保存”相反，故 FALSE。

笔记填空 (Questions 8–13, ONE WORD ONLY)

题号	题干片段 (中文化)	答案 (一词)	精确定位 (段落/原句要点)	详细解释与易错点
8	用.....大理石和水泥制成	Carrara	第2段: “a layer of white Carrara marble ... held together by ... cement”	“ONE WORD ONLY”故填 Carrara (大理石的产地/种类名, 专有名词首字母可大写也可小写)。不要写 white (颜色) 或 marble (词性不符且题干已有)。
9	它的.....与埃及金字塔不同	shape	第2段: “how steep it is, so that the shape ... is quite unlike that of typical Egyptian ones.”	题干“is different to”=“is quite unlike”; 核心名词即 shape。易误填“steepness”，但原句用来说明差异的最终名词是 shape。
10	最初建在..... (因城内禁止建墓)	countryside	第3段: “the Pyramid ... would have stood in the countryside.”	直接同义替换; 不要写“outside the city”等短语 (不符合“一词”限制)。
11	1660 年代在旁发现一些破损的.....	statues	第3段: “fragments of bronze statues ... on either side of the pyramid.”	“fragments=破片/破损”，所指对象为 statues。也可理解为“statues 的碎片”，填 statues 符合单词要求。切勿填“bases/bronze/fragments”。
12	墓内的.....表明盗贼来过	tunnel	第3段: “did not find the urn ... but they did come across a tunnel. It was ... possible that robbers had ... removed the contents.”	发现“隧道/通道”→推断曾被盗。不要填“urn” (说的是没找到) 或“robbers” (不是实物证据)。
13	攀爬者帮忙清除.....的痕迹	pollution	第5段: “cleaned every few months to remove the layer of urban pollution. A team of free-climbers will be employed ...”	“signs of 13 ____”即城市污染留下的层; 故填 pollution。不要填“dust/soot/urban”等。