

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 _____, cement and marble
- 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 _____

1-7 判断题详解 (T/F/NG)

题号	答案	题干翻译	定位句 & 译文	解析 (同义改写 & 陷阱排除)
1	FALSE	凯斯提乌斯金字塔一直是罗马最受欢迎的旅游景点之一。	第1段: “one notable monument there has never attracted nearly as much interest : the Pyramid of Cestius.” —— “有一处著名遗迹从未获得那么多关注: 凯斯提乌斯金字塔。”	题干“has always been...最受欢迎” = 一直很火; 原文说“从未获得那么多兴趣”, 语义相反, 故F。关键词对照: <i>always been most popular</i> ↔ <i>never attracted much interest</i> 。
2	NOT GIVEN	金字塔的建造在凯斯提乌斯去世之前就完成了。	第2段: “...who ordered that the building work be completed within 330 days.” —— “他下令在330天内完工。” (文中没有提及其去世时间或是否赶在去世前完成。)	仅提“限期330天”, 未给出死亡时间点或“是否赶在此前完成”, 因此信息未给出。常见误区: 把“葬陵”与“生前完工”画等号。
3	TRUE	中世纪人们认为金字塔里埋葬着罗马开国者之一。	第3段: “...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 .” —— “民间传说认为这可能是罗慕路斯与瑞摩斯之一之墓, 他们被视为建立罗马之人。”	题干“an original founder”与原文“twin brothers...established the city”同义; “one of”对应“an”。故T。
4	FALSE	如今游客与居民立刻就会注意到金字塔的高度。	第4段: “...so that passing tourists and residents could easily fail to notice its full height of 119 feet .” —— “因此过往游客和居民很容易注意不到它的全部高度(119英尺)。”	题干“立即注意到”与原文“容易注意不到”相反, 故F。
5	NOT GIVEN	日本商人八木佑三 (Yuzo Yagi) 同时是意大利与埃及建筑的仰慕者。	第4段: 八木资助修复并说“出于对意大利的感激”。—— 文中未提他崇拜“埃及建筑”。	文章只写其资助与“感谢意大利”, 没有关于其“欣赏埃及建筑”的信息; 把“金字塔”与“欣赏埃及建筑”强行关联属于过度推断, 故NG。
6	TRUE	在八木资助下的修复提前完工。	第4段: “...and was completed ahead of schedule thanks to his 2-million-euro contribution.” —— “多亏他出资两百万欧元, 工程提前完成。”	<i>ahead of schedule</i> = “早于预期”, 与题干一致, 故T。
7	FALSE	墓室中的大多数原始壁画保存至今。	第5段: “...there used to be more here, but the majority have disappeared over time .” —— “过去这里有更多, 但大多数已消失。”	题干说“大多数幸存”, 原文为“大多数消失”, 语义相反, 故F。

8–13 笔记填空 (ONE WORD ONLY) 详解

题号	答案	题干翻译	定位句 & 译文	解析与同义改写
8	brick	用砖、水泥和大理石建成。	第2段: "...constructed from brick held together by a basic kind of cement ... had a layer of ... marble ..." ——“内部用砖砌成, 以一种基础的水泥黏合; 外覆大理石。”	笔记给出并列“___, cement and marble”, 与原文并列完全对应; 用单数 brick (雅思常用搭配: made from brick)。
9	shape	它的形状不同于埃及金字塔。	第2段: "...how steep it is, so that the shape of Cestius' pyramid is quite unlike that of typical Egyptian ones."	"is different to" ↔ "is quite unlike"; 关键词 shape 直接对应。
10	countryside	由于城内禁建墓葬, 它最初建在乡间。	第3段: "...prohibiting the placement of tombs within the city itself, the Pyramid ... would have stood in the countryside ."	“禁建墓葬”→只能在“城外/乡间”; 与笔记描述一致。
11	statues	1660 年代, 在它旁边发现了一些损坏的雕像。	第3段: "...as well as fragments of bronze statues that had once stood on them, on either side of the pyramid." ——“以及曾立于基座之上的青铜雕像碎片, 在金字塔两侧。”	"some broken ___ were found next to it" 与 "fragments of ... statues ... on either side" 同义; 要填单词, 选 statues 最贴切。
12	tunnel	墓内的隧道暗示曾遭盗墓。	第3段: "...did not find the urn ... but they did come across a tunnel . It was quite possible, therefore, that robbers had ... removed the contents."	"the ___ inside the tomb suggests that robbers had been there" ← 文中“发现 tunnel → 可能被盗”。故填 tunnel 。
13	pollution	攀岩工人在清除污染痕迹。	第5段: "...cleaned every few months to remove the layer of urban pollution ."	"signs of ___" 与 "layer of urban pollution " 同义; 题型限制一词, 填 pollution 即可 (不必加 <i>urban</i>)。