



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)  
General Certificate of Education  
2015

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## Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 4

*assessing*

The Christian Church in the  
Roman Empire: Beginnings, Expansion  
and External Pressure

MV18

[AR141]

TUESDAY 16 JUNE, MORNING

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### TIME

1 hour 20 minutes, plus your additional time allowance.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.

Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

### INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 100.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions. Figures in brackets printed at the end of each question indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

### ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to take account of the marks for each question or part question in allocating the available examination time.

## Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Describe and explain the evidence for the geographical and social spread of Christianity in the first three centuries. [35 marks]
- (b) Comment on the view that Christianity only attracted converts from the higher social classes. Justify your answer. [15 marks]
  
- 2 (a) Describe the nature and course of the persecutions which took place during the reigns of the Emperors Domitian and Marcus Aurelius. [35 marks]
- (b) Comment on the claim that there was no consistent policy of persecution in the Roman Empire. Justify your answer. [15 marks]

## Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a)** Explain the reasons why the Bishop became the most important figure in the life of the Church during the first three centuries. [35 marks]
- (b)** With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the claim that Church leaders should always be trusted to make wise decisions. Justify your answer. [15 marks]
- 4 (a)** Describe the main features of the writings of the Apologists, with reference to Justin Martyr. [35 marks]
- (b)** With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the view that writers will always be needed to explain and defend religious faith in a secular age. Justify your answer. [15 marks]

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