



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2016

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit A2 4

assessing

The Continued Development of the
Christian Church in the Roman Empire
to 325 AD

[AR241]

FRIDAY 27 MAY, MORNING

MV18

Time

2 hours, plus your additional time allowance.

Instructions to Candidates

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

Answer **two** questions from Section A and answer the compulsory question in Section B.

Information for Candidates

The total mark for this paper is 150.

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 **two** questions from this section

- 1 (a) With particular reference to The Didache, Hippolytus and Cyprian, explain the doctrine and practice of Baptism as it developed in the first three centuries.
[30 marks]

- (b) Critically assess the view that the sacraments are no longer important in the life of the Church.
[20 marks]

- 2 (a) Discuss the main characteristics of Gnosticism and give reasons why the Church condemned it as a heresy.
[30 marks]

- (b) Critically evaluate the view that the existence of heresy had positive benefits for the Early Church. [20 marks]

3 (a) Outline and consider the contribution made by Tertullian to the development of doctrine and practice in the Early Church. [30 marks]

(b) “Tertullian’s writings are irrelevant for the Church today.”

Critically assess this view. [20 marks]

4 (a) Discuss the main teachings of Arius and consider why they were seen as so threatening to the Church at that time. [30 marks]

(b) Critically evaluate the view that the Council of Nicaea was not totally successful. [20 marks]

Section B

Synoptic Assessment

Theme: Suffering

You **must** answer this question

- 5 (a)** With reference to at least **two** different areas of study, identify and consider how some key religious figures responded to the problem of suffering. [30 marks]
- (b)** Critically assess the view that religious faith makes suffering more bearable. You should refer to other aspects of human experience in your answer. [20 marks]

