



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
January 2011

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 4

assessing

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

[AR141]



WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY, AFTERNOON

TIME

1 hour 20 minutes.

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 down the right-hand side of pages 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.

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Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Explain how political and geographical factors enabled Christianity to expand successfully in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) Comment on the claim that other factors were equally important in the rise of Christianity. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Give an account of the main themes in the writings of Ignatius of Antioch. [35]
- (b) Explore the view that early Christian writers are a valuable but limited source of information about the Church in the first two centuries. Justify your answer. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Describe the rise to power and religious policy of the Emperor Constantine. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the claim that religious conversion is always genuine. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Give an account of the persecution which began during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the claim that religious persecution is inevitable. Justify your answer. [15]

