



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)  
General Certificate of Education  
January 2014

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**Religious Studies**  
Assessment Unit AS 4

*assessing*

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

[AR141]



AR141

**THURSDAY 23 JANUARY, MORNING**

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**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 in allocating the available examination time.

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## Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Give an account of the main factors that enabled Christianity to spread across the Roman Empire in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) Explore the claim that the early Christians excluded themselves from Roman society. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Give an account of the way in which the roles of bishop, presbyter and deacon developed in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) Comment on the claim that the Bishop of Rome was always regarded as more important than other bishops. Justify your answer. [15]

## Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Describe the events in Constantine's early life and rise to power which made him sympathetic to the Christian Church. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that religious conversion is always life changing. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Explain the characteristics of the persecution which took place during the reign of the Emperor Decius and its consequences for the Church. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the view that persecution of religious believers is as severe now as it has ever been. Justify your answer. [15]

