



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2011

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 4

assessing

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

[AR141]



WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE, MORNING

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) With reference to Justin, Polycarp and Blandina, explain the impact of martyrdom on the Christian Church in the first two centuries. [35]
- (b) To what extent did Christians deserve to be regarded with suspicion by Roman society? Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Give an account of the persecution which took place during the reign of the Emperor Decius. [35]
- (b) Comment on the view that the problem of the lapsed was a complicated issue for the Church. Justify your answer. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Describe the factors which led to the rise in the power of the Bishop during the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that strong leadership is essential for the survival of any religious group. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Give an account of the main characteristics of the writings of **either** Clement of Rome **or** Justin Martyr. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the value of such writings for religious believers. Justify your answer. [15]

