



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2013

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 4

assessing

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

[AR141]



MONDAY 17 JUNE, 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 in allocating the available examination time.

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Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Describe and explain how political and geographical factors contributed to the expansion of Christianity in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) Explore the claim that the Christian Church had a surprising ability to attract converts from all levels of society. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Explain how the religious policy of the Emperor Constantine impacted on the development of the Christian Church. [35]
- (b) Comment on the view that Constantine's interest in Christianity was more political than religious. Justify your answer. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Explain why Christians were persecuted by the Roman authorities in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the claim that the extent of religious persecution is often exaggerated. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Describe and explain the importance of the writings of the Apostolic Fathers, with particular reference to Ignatius of Antioch. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the view that the issues identified by the Early Fathers are still present in the church today. Justify your answer. [15]

