



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2015

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 4

assessing

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



[AR141]

TUESDAY 16 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 in allocating the available examination time.

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Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Describe and explain the evidence for the geographical and social spread of Christianity in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) Comment on the view that Christianity only attracted converts from the higher social classes. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Describe the nature and course of the persecutions which took place during the reigns of the Emperors Domitian and Marcus Aurelius. [35]
- (b) Comment on the claim that there was no consistent policy of persecution in the Roman Empire. Justify your answer. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Explain the reasons why the Bishop became the most important figure in the life of the Church during the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the claim that Church leaders should always be trusted to make wise decisions. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Describe the main features of the writings of the Apologists, with reference to Justin Martyr. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the view that writers will always be needed to explain and defend religious faith in a secular age. Justify your answer. [15]

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