



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2016

Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 4

assessing

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

[AR141]

TUESDAY 21 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 the effect on Roman society of the witness of the Christian martyrs during the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) Comment on the view that other factors were more important than the witness of the Christian martyrs in the spread of Christianity. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Describe and explain the main features of the persecution which took place during the reigns of the Emperors Decius and Valerian. [35]
- (b) Explore the claim that the Church never found a satisfactory way to deal with the problem of the lapsed. Justify your answer. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Give an account of the main concerns shown in the writings of Ignatius of Antioch and Clement of Rome. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that writings such as these are still relevant in the life of the Church. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Describe the ways in which Constantine's political and religious views influenced his attitude towards the Christian Church. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the claim that political leaders should not concern themselves with issues of religious belief. Justify your answer. [15]

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