



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)  
General Certificate of Education  
2017

# Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 5  
*assessing*  
The Celtic Church in Ireland  
in the 5th, 6th and 7th Centuries



SRE51

**[SRE51]**  
**THURSDAY 25 MAY, 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 part question in allocating the available examination time.

## Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

**1 (a)** Describe how the social and religious background that existed in pre-Patrician Ireland influenced Christianity. [25]

**(b)** “The references in early sources to the mission of Palladius to the Irish are problematic, but also significant.”

With reference to this statement, evaluate the suggestion that Patrick took the credit for the work of Palladius. Justify your answer. [25]

**2 (a)** With reference to the contribution of any **two** monastic founders, explain the development of monasticism in Ireland. [25]

**(b)** Comment on the view that Celtic monasticism was both limited and negative in its influence. Justify your answer. [25]

## Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

3 (a) In what ways are the Penitentials important sources of information for life and religious practice in the Celtic Church? [25]

(b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, consider the importance of self-denial and asceticism for the religious life. Justify your answer. [25]

4 (a) "Hagiographical writings seek to edify and enhance the religious authority and sanctity of the saint they describe."

With reference to this quotation, discuss the importance of Muirchú's **Life of Patrick**. [25]

(b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that in a secular age, religious writings are no longer relevant or important. Justify your answer. [25]

