



*Rewarding Learning*

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)  
General Certificate of Education  
January 2012

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## Religious Studies

### Assessment Unit AS 4

*assessing*

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

[AR141]

FRIDAY 20 JANUARY, AFTERNOON

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#### 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) Explain the reasons for the persecution of Christians in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) To what extent did persecution play a key role in the spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire? Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Give an account of the debate surrounding the conversion of the Emperor Constantine. [35]
- (b) Explore the claim that the Edict of Milan was a significant event in the growth of the Christian Church. Justify your answer. [15]

## Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B.

- 3 (a) Describe the themes of martyrdom and heresy as they are found in the letters of Ignatius of Antioch. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that such writings provide useful guidance for the religious believer in any age. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Give an account of the way in which the doctrine of Apostolic Succession grew and developed in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that religious leaders should always be obeyed without question. Justify your answer. [15]

