



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
January 2014

Religious Studies
Assessment Unit AS 4

assessing

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

[AR141]



AR141

THURSDAY 23 JANUARY, 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) Give an account of the main factors that enabled Christianity to spread across the Roman Empire in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) Explore the claim that the early Christians excluded themselves from Roman society. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Give an account of the way in which the roles of bishop, presbyter and deacon developed in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) Comment on the claim that the Bishop of Rome was always regarded as more important than other bishops. Justify your answer. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Describe the events in Constantine's early life and rise to power which made him sympathetic to the Christian Church. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that religious conversion is always life changing. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Explain the characteristics of the persecution which took place during the reign of the Emperor Decius and its consequences for the Church. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the view that persecution of religious believers is as severe now as it has ever been. Justify your answer. [15]

