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ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)  
General Certificate of Education  
2016

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# Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 4

*assessing*

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

[AR141]

TUESDAY 21 JUNE, 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) 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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