



*Rewarding Learning*

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)**  
**General Certificate of Education**  
January 2010

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## **Religious Studies**

### **Assessment Unit AS 4**

*assessing*

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

**[AR141]**

**WEDNESDAY 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 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.

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## Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

- 1 (a) Explain the role of martyrdom and its impact on the spread of Christianity in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) Explore the claim that Christians were only to be found in the higher social classes. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Give an account of the nature of the persecutions which took place during the reigns of Nero, Domitian and Trajan. [35]
- (b) Explore the claim that persecution was neither organized nor widespread. Justify your answer. [15]

## Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a) Explain the ways in which the roles of Bishop, Presbyter (elder) and Deacon developed during the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the extent to which religious authority is always a divisive issue. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Describe and explain the main characteristics of the writings of the Apostolic Fathers, with particular reference to **either** Ignatius of Antioch **or** Clement of Rome. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the relevance of such writings for religious leaders. Justify your answer. [15]

