



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2012

Religious Studies
Assessment Unit AS 4

assessing

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

[AR141]

THURSDAY 14 JUNE, MORNING



AR141

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 how social and religious factors contributed to the expansion of Christianity in the first three centuries. [35]
- (b) Explore the view that the Early Christians made little attempt to contribute to Roman society. Justify your answer. [15]
- 2 (a) Give an account of the main arguments used by Justin Martyr to meet the challenge of pagan and Jewish beliefs about Christianity. [35]
- (b) Comment on the claim that Justin's writings were beyond the understanding of most people at that time. Justify your answer. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B.

- 3 (a) Describe the nature of the persecutions which took place during the reigns of the Emperors Trajan and Marcus Aurelius. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, explore the view that the faith of religious believers is always strengthened by persecution. Justify your answer. [15]
- 4 (a) Give an account of the life and rise to power of the Emperor Constantine. [35]
- (b) With reference to other aspects of human experience, comment on the view that religious believers should not attempt to influence the laws of the State. Justify your answer. [15]

