



*Rewarding Learning*  
**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)**  
General Certificate of Education  
2019

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# Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 5  
*assessing*  
The Celtic Church in Ireland  
in the 5th, 6th and 7th Centuries



SRE51

**[SRE51]**

**WEDNESDAY 22 MAY, 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 part question in allocating the available examination time.

## Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

1 (a) Discuss the portrait of Patrick that emerges from his **Confessio**. [25]

(b) “Very little is known about the arrival of Christianity into Ireland before Patrick.”

With reference to the available evidence, evaluate this statement. Justify your answer. [25]

2 (a) “Muirchú’s **Life of Patrick** can only be understood in relation to the political and religious circumstances in which it was written.”

With reference to this statement, examine why Muirchú’s **Life of Patrick** may have been written. [25]

(b) Comment on the view that hagiography is only of interest to the religious believer. Justify your answer. [25]

## Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a)** Examine the reasons for the change from episcopal to monastic organisation in the Celtic Church. [25]
- (b)** With reference to other aspects of human experience, evaluate the view that religious belief must always adapt itself to political and social developments. Justify your answer. [25]
- 4 (a)** In what ways was Celtic penitential practice distinctive from the wider church at that time? [25]
- (b)** “Total forgiveness is idealistic but not impossible.”
- With reference to other aspects of human experience, assess this claim. Justify your answer. [25]

