



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2025

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Religious Studies

Assessment Unit A2 4

assessing

Themes in the Early Church
and the Church today



[ARE41]

ARE41

TUESDAY 10 JUNE, AFTERNOON

TIME

2 hours.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided at the top of this page.

You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.

Do not write outside the boxed area on each page or on blank pages.

Complete in black ink only. **Do not write with a gel pen.**

Answer **two** questions from Section A and the compulsory question in Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 150.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to take account of the marks for each part question in allocating the available examination time.

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Section A

Answer **two** questions from this section

- 1 (a) Clarify the threat to the Early Church posed by Montanism. [20]
- (b) “Gnosticism was difficult to understand and took too many different forms to ever seriously challenge the Early Church.”
- Critically assess this claim. [30]
- 2 (a) Analyse Cyprian’s contribution to dealing with the issue of ‘the lapsed’. [20]
- (b) “Since Tertullian focused only on theological matters, his role in the church was very different to that of Cyprian.”
- Critically evaluate this view. [30]
- 3 (a) Outline the main differences between **two** different models of religious authority in the modern church. [20]
- (b) “The main task of modern apologetic writers is to respond to attacks on religious thinking by atheists in a secular age.”
- To what extent do you agree with this view? [30]



Section B

Synoptic Assessment

Theme: Faith, Morality and the State

You **must** answer this question

- 4 (a)** “Religion plays an important role in resolving conflict.”

With reference to **one** historical example, present a case for this statement.

You must support your answer with reference to at least **one** other unit of study. [20]

- (b)** Consider critically the claim that religious thinking has always informed and influenced ethical decision making in society.

You must refer to other aspects of human experience in your answer. [30]





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THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

For Examiner's use only	
Question Number	Marks
1	
2	
3	
4	
Total Marks	

Examiner Number

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