



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)  
General Certificate of Education  
2025

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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# Religious Studies

Assessment Unit AS 4

*assessing*

The Origins and Development  
of the Early Christian Church  
to AD 325



[SRE41]

\*SRE41\*

**THURSDAY 29 MAY, MORNING**

### TIME

1 hour 20 minutes.

### 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 **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

### INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 100.

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.

14750



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## Section A

Answer **one** question from Section A

1 (a) Explain how Justin Martyr defended Christianity in his First Apology. [25]

(b) Evaluate the view that the writings of Justin Martyr give a better understanding of the Early Church than the letters of Ignatius of Antioch.

Justify your answer. [25]

2 (a) Discuss the causes and course of the persecution of Christians by the Emperor Decius. [25]

(b) "The legacy of Decius' persecution was never adequately dealt with by the Early Church."

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Justify your answer. [25]



## Section B

Answer **one** question from Section B

- 3 (a)** Examine the doctrine and practice of baptism in the writings of Hippolytus. [25]

- (b)** “In the past, acts of initiation were vital to the faith of religious believers, but this is no longer the case.”

With reference to other aspects of human experience, assess this claim.

Justify your answer. [25]

- 4 (a)** Describe the political and religious actions taken by Constantine to secure control of the West between 306 and 313AD. [25]

- (b)** “Religion must have a relationship with the state, but this always causes problems.”

With reference to other aspects of human experience, evaluate this view.

Justify your answer. [25]

[Turn over



































































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**THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER**

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**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE**

For Examiner's use only	
Question Number	Marks
1	
2	
3	
4	
<b>Total Marks</b>	

Examiner Number

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