

Essay Questions: choose ONE of the following topics

1. ‘The [medieval] church was a compulsory society in precisely the same way as the modern state is a compulsory society.’ **Richard W. Southern** in *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages* p. 17.

Comment.

2. Alfred Loisy

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Alfred Firmin Loisy (28 February 1857 – 1 June 1940) was a French Roman Catholic priest, professor and theologian who became the intellectual standard bearer for Biblical Modernism in the Roman Catholic Church. He was a critic of traditional views of the biblical creation, and argued that biblical criticism could be applied to interpreting scripture. His theological positions brought him into conflict with the leading Catholics of his era, including Pope Leo XIII and Pope Pius X. In 1893, he was dismissed as a professor from the Institut Catholique de Paris. His books were condemned by the Vatican, and in 1908 he was excommunicated.

Loisy's most famous observation was that "**Jesus came preaching the Kingdom, and what arrived was the Church**" ("Jésus annonçait le Royaume et c'est l'Église qui est venue" - 1902), and he is often taken to have said that with a note of regret. But for all his clashes with the Roman Catholic hierarchy, Loisy did think that Jesus intended to form some sort of society or community. It was the aping of civil government that he doubted Jesus intended.

Comment on Loisy's statement.

3. Architecture:

‘Architecture has always been a means of expressing some kind of political power’.

Explain, comment and give examples.

4. Had you lived in 13th century southern France would you have been on the Cathars' side or would you have supported the Crusaders?

Explain and detail your opinion.

Papers should be 4 to 6 pages long.

Criteria:

1. Relevance to the topic
2. Accuracy of historical background
3. Structured argumentation