

STEP II, 2005, Q4 EC

Q4 Though less popular than its predecessors it nevertheless generated some good work. The very best solutions sailed through the first part, used the displayed result there to establish the second displayed result and then produced a carefully worked solution for the final part. However, such quality mathematics came only from a minority.

In contrast the majority did not understand how the second part relates to the first and so started all over again. Moreover, it was common for an unchecked solution to appear. Even if this was correct, it could not be awarded full credit for the simple reason that in this context there are several plausible possibilities.



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