

## STEP II, 2007, Q1 EC

- 1 This question required little more than a clear head and some persistence: candidates had either ample or very little of both, and thus most scores were either high or very low. The examiners would like to stress that a solution to a question such as this must be written out methodically and coherently: many answers which began promisingly were soon hopelessly fragmented and incoherent, leaving the candidate unable to regain his or her train of thought. This was especially true when deriving the final expression given on the exam paper. Examiners follow closely a candidate's line of reasoning, and they have to be certain that the candidate has constructed a complete argument, and that he or she has not arrived at a printed result without full justification.



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