STEP II, 2010, Q7

7 **(i)** By considering the positions of its turning points, show that the curve with equation

$$y = x^3 - 3qx - q(1+q)\,,$$

where $q > 0$ and $q \neq 1$, crosses the x-axis once only.

(ii) Given that x satisfies the cubic equation

$$x^3 - 3qx - q(1+q) = 0\,,$$

and that

$$x = u + q/u\,,$$

obtain a quadratic equation satisfied by u^3. Hence find the real root of the cubic equation in the case $q > 0$, $q \neq 1$.

(iii) The quadratic equation

$$t^2 - pt + q = 0$$

has roots α and β. Show that

$$\alpha^3 + \beta^3 = p^3 - 3qp\,.$$

It is given that one of these roots is the square of the other. By considering the expression $(\alpha^2 - \beta)(\beta^2 - \alpha)$, find a relationship between p and q. Given further that $q > 0$, $q \neq 1$ and p is real, determine the value of p in terms of q.