

STEP II, 2011, Q9 EC

Q9 Almost half of all candidates attempted this question, and scores averaged over 12/20. In the majority of cases, the first two parts of the question proved relatively straightforward conceptually, although there was the usual collection of errors introduced because of a lack of

care with signs/directions. It was only the final part of the question that proved to be of any great difficulty: most candidates realised that they had to show that the given expression for B 's velocity was always positive, but a lot of their efforts foundered on the lack of appreciation that the term $1 - 4e^2$ could be positive or negative.



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