



## STEP II, 2016, Q2 EC

This question received poor responses in terms of the average mark per attempt. Application of the factor theorem to the first part often produced a neat solution. However, a number of candidates in the first part did not use the factor theorem as requested and so produced very complicated algebraic expressions that were more of a challenge to simplify. Where the result had been successfully shown and the expression factorised, many candidates were able to see the relevance to solving the equation in part (i). Those candidates who were able to follow through the method to successfully factorise the second expression were often able to complete the question.



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