



STEP II, 2017, Q5 EC

Attempts at this question were over the thousand figure, making it the third most popular question on the paper, with the second-highest mean score. Part (i) proved to be very routine; the calculus requirements in (ii) were obvious to most, though justifying the minimum distance was often poorly handled; for instance, finding the second derivative is a poor way to spend one's time when examining the sign of the first derivative is easily undertaken. The needs of part (iii) were also easily spotted though, again, a couple of marks were almost universally lost as the need to eliminate the two other cases that arise was largely ignored.



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