

## STEP III, 2008 Q1 EC

**Q1** This was the most popular question on the paper, and many earned good marks on it. Nearly all the candidates followed the hint, and most then applied the same trick with the third equation. Subsequent success depended on a candidate realising that they had simultaneous equations in  $xy$  and  $x + y$ , although very rarely some managed to solve directly in  $x$  and  $y$ .



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