

STEP III, 2010 Q4 EC

4. This was a popular question, though it was not generally well scored upon, with very few candidates earning full marks. Most began strongly, and finished by finding the values of b correctly. However, basic sign errors did prevent some from achieving the numerical pay-off. Part (ii) was, as expected, found trickier than part (i). Overall, the non-triviality of “if and only if” was rarely addressed as an issue in either part.



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