STEP III 2012 Question 7 — Examiner Report

Two thirds attempted this too, with marginally greater success than question 2. Most did very well with the stem, though a few were unable to obtain a proper second order equation. Those that attempted part (i) were usually successful. The non-trivial exponential calculations in part (ii) caused problems for some making computation mistakes whilst others were totally on top of this. Part (iii) tested the candidates on two levels, interpreting the sigma notation correctly, and recognising and using the geometric series. Some managed this excellently.