

## STEP III, 2017, Q3 EC

### Question 3

The second most popular question at just over 70%, the success rate was about half marks in common with a number of other questions, with the majority earning either 16 and above, or 4 and below. A common mistake was omitting the minus sign in the first step to obtain  $A$  which resulted in candidates being unable to progress further. If the cubic equation was correctly found, then candidates tended to score all the marks as far as part (iii). A few candidates obtaining the correct results in (iii) then stated that the answers could not be complex, which was, of course, false.



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