

# Report on B3.VI (Condensed-Matter Physics) 2013

(Candidates: ; raw mean mark 72.2%, SD 15.0)

On average, the candidates performed well in all the questions.

Q1: Attempted by 140, with average mark 17.0 and standard deviation 4.1. By far the most popular question. Candidates performed well, apart from the last question where most showed confusion between optical light and x-rays is describing an experimental apparatus. Also, several candidates seemed rather sloppy in performing estimates with the right numerical accuracy.

Q2: Attempted by 4, with average mark 13.3 and standard deviation 5.4. This question was not very popular. While the first part of the question was rather standard, and most candidates were able to go through it, the second part was much more challenging, and rather unconventional. This is likely the reason it was selected by only a few candidates.

Q3: Attempted by 105, with average mark 19.5 and standard deviation 4.7. Most candidates that attempted this question were able to get through it. On the other hand, some got confused and erroneously interpreted the question as a two-chain problem.

Q4: Attempted by 65, with average mark 18.2 and standard deviation 4.1. Even though this was common question, a large fraction of candidates had difficulties in performing accurate numerical estimates.