09	1c	Solve $|x + 1| = 5$	2

State Mean:
1.87/2

$$|x + 1| = 5$$

Two cases:

$x + 1 = 5$ $-(x + 1) = 5$
     $x = 5 - 1$ $x + 1 = -5$
     $x = 4$ $x = -5 - 1$
                        $x = -6$

$\therefore x = 4, -6$

Board of Studies: Notes from the Marking Centre

Most responses proceeded by splitting the part into two linear components. However, some candidates chose to square both sides of the equation and to deal instead with the resulting quadratic equation. Intuitive arguments based upon distances from $x = -1$ were rare but generally successful.

Source: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/hsc_exams/