When examination committees develop questions for the examination, they may write ‘sample answers’ or, in the case of some questions, ‘answers could include’. The committees do this to ensure that the questions will effectively assess students’ knowledge and skills.

This material is also provided to the Supervisor of Marking, to give some guidance about the nature and scope of the responses the committee expected students would produce. How sample answers are used at marking centres varies. Sample answers may be used extensively and even modified at the marking centre OR they may be considered only briefly at the beginning of marking. In a few cases, the sample answers may not be used at all at marking.

The Board publishes this information to assist in understanding how the marking guidelines were implemented.

The ‘sample answers’ or similar advice contained in this document are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee’s ‘working document’, they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.
Section I — Response to Prescribed Text
Part A

Question 1 (a)
Sample answer:
Xiaochun’s problems are that Liu Cheng is leaving and that Xiaochun’s violin playing is not as good as it was before. Xiaochun’s realisation that Liu Cheng is not his biological father is also accepted as an answer.

Question 1 (b)
Sample answer:
Professor Yu is going through an internal conflict. He knows that morally he should not tell Xiaochun the secret of his past; however, by revealing the truth, Professor Yu assumes that Xiaochun will feel indebted to his father and stay.

Question 1 (c)
Sample answer:
Professor Yu is a manipulative and pretentious person as reflected in his manipulation of the relationship between Xiaochun and his father in order to make Xiaochun continue learning with him. He also pretends to be sympathetic to Liu Cheng in order to push Xiaochun to work harder, in order to be successful. To this end, he uses all means possible, even revealing Liu Cheng’s secret for his own purpose.

Question 1 (d)
Sample answer:
In Extract 4, Xiaochun has displayed maturity through his genuine apology to his father in a series of successive sentences, starting with ‘I shouldn’t have made you angry, I shouldn’t have sold the violin . . . , it is my fault’. Xiaochun’s remorse is also accentuated by the close-up shots of his facial expressions and tearful eyes. Moreover, in this extract, Xiaochun has rediscovered his filial love for his father and has come to the realisation that staying with him is far more important than his pursuit of fame in Beijing. This realisation prompts him to say, ‘Dad . . . I want to go home with you’.

[Students can relate the issue with another scene of their choice.]
Section I — Response to Prescribed Text
Part B

Question 2

Answer could include:

• He expresses his resentment towards the change of teachers.
• He uses the violin to express his feelings for Lily.
• He expresses his homesickness and sense of displacement in Beijing.
• He expresses his hostility towards the new teacher.