



English I

Short Answer Single Selection Scoring Guide

March 2016

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

In Bengali tradition children are given two names at birth: an informal name used only at home and a formal name, or "good name," used in public. In this excerpt, Gogol's parents, Ashoke and Ashima, want to give him a good name to use at school.

from **The Namesake**

by Jhumpa Lahiri

1 There is a reason Gogol doesn't want to go to kindergarten. His parents have told him that at school, instead of being called Gogol, he will be called by a new name, a good name, which his parents have finally decided on, just in time for him to begin his formal education. The name, Nikhil, is artfully connected to the old. Not only is it a perfectly respectable Bengali good name, meaning "he who is entire, encompassing all," but it also bears a satisfying resemblance to Nikolai, the first name of the Russian Gogol. Ashoke had thought of it recently, staring mindlessly at the Gogol spines in the library, and he had rushed back to the house to ask Ashima her opinion. He pointed out that it was relatively easy to pronounce, though there was the danger that Americans, obsessed with abbreviation, would truncate it to Nick. She told him she liked it well enough, though later, alone, she'd wept, thinking of her grandmother, who had died earlier in the year, and of the letter, forever hovering somewhere between India and America, containing the good name she'd chosen for Gogol. Ashima still dreams of the letter at times, discovering it after all these years in the mailbox on Pemberton Road, opening it up only to find it blank.

2 But Gogol doesn't want a new name. He can't understand why he has to answer to anything else. "Why do I have to have a new name?" he asks his parents, tears springing to his eyes. It would be one thing if his parents were to call him Nikhil, too. But they tell him that the new name will be used only by the teachers and children at school. He is afraid to be Nikhil, someone he doesn't know. Who doesn't know him. His parents tell him that they each have two names, too, as do all their Bengali friends in America, and all their relatives in Calcutta. It's a part of growing up, they tell him, part of being a Bengali. They write it for him on a sheet of paper, ask him to copy it over ten times. "Don't worry," his father says. "To me and your mother, you will never be anyone but Gogol."

* * *

3 At school, Ashoke and Gogol are greeted by the secretary, Mrs. McNab, who asks Ashoke to fill out a registration form. He provides a copy of Gogol's birth certificate and immunization record, which Mrs. McNab puts in a folder along with the registration. "This way," Mrs. McNab says, leading them to the principal's office. CANDACE LAPIDUS, the name on the door says. Mrs. Lapidus assures Ashoke that missing the first week of kindergarten is not a problem, that things have yet to settle down. Mrs. Lapidus is a tall, slender woman with

short white-blond hair. She wears frosted blue eye shadow and a lemon yellow suit. She shakes Ashoke's hand and tells him that there are two other Indian children at the school, Jayadev Modi in the third grade and Rekha Saxena in fifth. Perhaps the Gangulis know them? Ashoke tells Mrs. Lapidus that they do not. She looks at the registration form and smiles kindly at the boy, who is clutching his father's hand. Gogol is dressed in powder blue pants, red and white canvas sneakers, a striped turtleneck top.

4 "Welcome to elementary school, Nikhil. I am your principal, Mrs. Lapidus."

5 Gogol looks down at his sneakers. The way the principal pronounces his new name is different from the way his parents say it, the second part of it longer, sounding like "heel."

6 She bends down so that her face is level with his, and extends a hand to his shoulder. "Can you tell me how old you are, Nikhil?"

7 When the question is repeated and there is still no response, Mrs. Lapidus asks, "Mr. Ganguli, does Nikhil follow English?"

8 "Of course he follows," Ashoke says. "My son is perfectly bilingual."

9 In order to prove that Gogol knows English, Ashoke does something he has never done before, and addresses his son in careful, accented English. "Go on, Gogol," he says, patting him on the head. "Tell Mrs. Lapidus how old you are."

10 "What was that?" Mrs. Lapidus says.

11 "I beg your pardon, madam?"

12 "That name you called him. Something with a G."

13 "Oh that, that is what we call him at home only. But his good name should be—is"—he nods his head firmly—"Nikhil."

14 Mrs. Lapidus frowns. "I'm afraid I don't understand. Good name?"

15 "Yes."

16 Mrs. Lapidus studies the registration form. She has not had to go through this confusion with the other two Indian children. She opens up the folder and examines the immunization record, the birth certificate. "There seems to be some confusion, Mr. Ganguli," she says. "According to these documents, your son's legal name is Gogol."

17 "That is correct. But please allow me to explain—"

18 "That you want us to call him Nikhil."

19 "That is correct."

20 Mrs. Lapidus nods. "The reason being?"

- 21 "That is our wish."
- 22 "I'm not sure I follow you, Mr. Ganguli. Do you mean that Nikhil is a middle name? Or a nickname? Many of the children go by nicknames here. On this form there is a space—"
- 23 "No, no, it's not a middle name," Ashoke says. He is beginning to lose patience. "He has no middle name. No nickname. The boy's good name, his school name, is Nikhil."
- 24 Mrs. Lapidus presses her lips together and smiles. "But clearly he doesn't respond."
- 25 "Please, Mrs. Lapidus," Ashoke says. "It is very common for a child to be confused at first. Please give it some time. I assure you he will grow accustomed."
- 26 He bends down and this time in Bengali, calmly and quietly, asks Gogol to please answer when Mrs. Lapidus asks a question. "Don't be scared, Gogol," he says, raising his son's chin with his finger. "You're a big boy now. No tears."
- 27 Though Mrs. Lapidus does not understand a word, she listens carefully, hears that name again. Gogol. Lightly, in pencil, she writes it down on the registration form.
- 28 Ashoke hands over the lunch box, a windbreaker in case it gets cold. He thanks Mrs. Lapidus. "Be good, Nikhil," he says in English. And then, after a moment's hesitation, he is gone.
- 29 When they are alone, Mrs. Lapidus asks, "Are you happy to be entering elementary school, Gogol?"
- 30 "My parents want me to have another name in school."
- 31 "And what about you, Gogol? Do you want to be called by another name?"
- 32 After a pause, he shakes his head.
- 33 "Is that a no?"
- 34 He nods. "Yes."
- 35 "Then it's settled. Can you write your name on this piece of paper?"
- 36 Gogol picks up a pencil, grips it tightly, and forms the letters of the only word he has learned thus far to write from memory, getting the "L" backward due to nerves. "What beautiful penmanship you have," Mrs. Lapidus says. She tears up the old registration form and asks Mrs. McNab to type up a new one. Then she takes Gogol by the hand, down a carpeted hallway with painted cement walls. She opens a door, and Gogol is introduced to his teacher, Miss Watkins, a woman with hair in two braids, wearing overalls and clogs. Inside the classroom it's a small universe of nicknames—Andrew is Andy, Alexandra Sandy, William Billy, Elizabeth Lizzy. It is nothing like the schooling Gogol's parents

have known, fountain pens and polished black shoes and notebooks and good names and sir or madam at a tender age. Here the only official ritual is pledging allegiance first thing in the morning to the American flag. For the rest of the day, they sit at a communal round table, drinking punch and eating cookies, taking naps on little orange cushions on the floor. At the end of his first day he is sent home with a letter to his parents from Mrs. Lapidus, folded and stapled to a string around his neck, explaining that due to their son's preference he will be known as Gogol at school. What about the parents' preference? Ashima and Ashoke wonder, shaking their heads. But since neither of them feels comfortable pressing the issue, they have no choice but to give in.

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English I Short Answer Single Selection

In the excerpt from *The Namesake*, what is Gogol's primary conflict? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from the selection.

Score Point 0 — Insufficient Response to the Question

Insufficient responses indicate a very limited reading performance.

These responses have one of the following problems.

- ❑ The idea is not an answer to the question asked.
- ❑ The idea is incorrect because it is not based on the text.
- ❑ The idea is too general, vague, or unclear to determine whether it is reasonable.
- ❑ No idea is present. Sometimes the response contains only text evidence. At other times there appears to be an idea; however, this idea cannot be considered an answer to the question because it merely repeats verbatim, or “echoes,” the text evidence.

Some kids like their name and some kids just don't, It is wrong for parents to just assume they can change the name for their son even if the kid doesn't want to. Parents these days think that they know what's best for them always, but please in this case if the Guy doesn't want to just let him live how he wants to live.

Score Point 0

In this insufficient response, the student offers an opinion (It is wrong for parents to just assume they can change the name for their son. . . . if the Guy doesn't want to [change his name] just let him live how he wants to live) that does not answer the question asked. The student never addresses Gogol's primary conflict. Therefore, this response indicates a very limited reading performance.

But Gogol doesn't want a new name. He can't understand why he has to answer to anything. Also the way the Principal pronounces his new name is different from the way his parents say it. The second part of it longe sounding like heel.

Score Point 0

In this response, the student does not present an idea. The entire response contains direct quotations from the selection. Because no idea is present, this response indicates a very limited reading performance.

He was afraid that his classmates
were gonna make fun of him or
be rude to him so his parents
try to change his name.

Score Point 0

This response is insufficient because the student presents an idea that is not based on the selection. The idea that Gogol's classmates would make fun of him or be rude to him cannot be supported with evidence from the selection. Therefore, this response indicates a very limited reading performance.

In "The Namesake" Gogol Primary conflict is
that he doesn't want a new name. In "The
Namesake" it says "Gogol doesn't want a
new name". This quote shows that Gogol
doesn't want a new name.

Score Point 0

In this insufficient response, the student does not present an original idea. The student has presented an idea that merely repeats verbatim the textual evidence she uses to support her idea. This response represents a very limited reading performance.

Score Point 1 — Partially Sufficient Response to the Question

Partially sufficient responses indicate a basic reading performance.

These responses have one of the following characteristics.

- ❑ The idea is reasonable, but the response contains no text evidence.
- ❑ The idea is reasonable, but the text evidence is flawed and does not adequately support the idea. Text evidence is considered inadequate when it is
 - only a general reference to the text,
 - too partial to support the idea,
 - weakly linked to the idea, or
 - used inappropriately because it wrongly manipulates the meaning of the text.
- ❑ The idea needs more explanation or specificity even though it is supported with text evidence.
- ❑ The idea represents only a literal reading of the text, with or without text evidence.

Gogol's primary conflict is not wanting to go to Kindergarten because Gogol's Parents told him, he was gonna be called a different name in Kindergarten due to their traditions. His name was going to be Nikhil meaning "he who is entire, encompassing all."

Score Point 1

This response is partially sufficient. Although the student provides a reasonable idea, the text evidence is flawed because it is only weakly linked to the idea. The direct quotation the student uses does not directly support that Gogol's parents tell Gogol that "he was going to be called a different name." Because the student does not support the idea with relevant text evidence, this response represents a basic reading performance.

Because he didn't want to change his name." His parents told him that at school, instead of being called Gogol, he will be called by a new name, a good name, which his parents have finally decided on, just in time for him to begin his formal education."

Score Point 1

The student in this partially sufficient response presents the idea Gogol doesn't want to change his name, which is an internal conflict that Gogol experiences. The student attempts to support this idea with textual evidence. However, the text evidence provided is flawed because it is too partial to support the idea that Gogol doesn't want to change his name.

Gogol's primary conflict is about wanting to please his parents. It is ~~ex~~ internal.

Score Point 1

In this partially sufficient response, the student offers a reasonable idea that can be supported by textual evidence. However, the student does not provide textual evidence. Because the student has offered an idea but provided no evidence to support it, this response indicates a basic reading performance.

Gogol's primary conflict was that he didn't want a "good name". In paragraph 2 it explain why he doesn't want a new name or why he doesn't having an Informal name used only at home and a "good name" used in public. In paragraph 30-36 shows us that the principal makes him feel relieved since registering him with his informal name.

Score Point 1

The student presents the reasonable idea that Gogol does not want a "good name." The student attempts to provide textual support by providing general text references and paragraph citations. However, this attempt is not specific enough to be considered a paraphrase of relevant text. Because the student has provided only general text references to support a reasonable idea, this response represents a basic reading performance.

Score Point 2 — Sufficient Response to the Question

Sufficient responses indicate a satisfactory reading performance.

These responses have the following characteristics.

- ❑ The idea is reasonable and goes beyond a literal reading of the text. It is explained specifically enough to show that the student can make appropriate connections across the text and draw valid conclusions.
- ❑ The text evidence used to support the idea is accurate and relevant.
- ❑ The idea and text evidence used to support it are clearly linked.
- ❑ The combination of the idea and the text evidence demonstrates a good understanding of the text.

Primary conflict Gogol has is stress. For example, 'Gogol picks up a pencil, grips it tightly, and forms the o of the only word he has learned thus far to write for memory, getting the "L" backwards due to nerves.

Score Point 2

In this sufficient response, the student presents the reasonable idea that Gogol's primary conflict is stress. The student provides textual evidence (Gogol picks up a pencil, grips it tightly, and forms the [letters] of the only word he has learned thus far to write for memory, getting the 'L' backwards due to nerves) that sufficiently supports this idea. The combination of the idea and textual support demonstrates a satisfactory reading performance.

Gogol's primary conflict is that he does not want to be called a different name because he is uncomfortable with it. In the excerpt from "The Namesake" it states "But Gogol doesn't want a new name. He can't understand why he has to answer to anything else."

Score Point 2

In this sufficient response, the student offers the reasonable idea that Gogol's conflict is that "he does not want to be called a different name because he is uncomfortable with it." The textual evidence provided is relevant because it shows that Gogol "can't understand why he has to answer to anything else," which sufficiently supports the idea. This response demonstrates a satisfactory reading performance.

In the story "The Namesake", Gogol's primary conflict is that he will become a different person through the name Nikhil. "He is afraid to be Nikhil" because he has always gone by Gogol.

Score Point 2

In this satisfactory reading performance, the student presents the reasonable idea that Gogol's primary conflict is his fear of becoming "a different person" when he receives his new name. This idea is supported by relevant textual evidence (He is afraid to be "Nikhil" because he has always gone by Gogol). The combination of idea and text indicates the student has a good understanding of the selection.

Gogol's primary conflict is not being used to his new name. He doesn't like being called someone he is not.
The selection states, "And what about you, Gogol? Do you want to be called another name? After a pause, he shakes his head."
Gogol didn't feel comfortable being called Nikhil. He probably didn't fully understand why he needed a "good name". He also probably wouldn't have ever opened up to his peers if he was still called Nikhil.

Score Point 2

This student offers the reasonable idea that Gogol is not accustomed to his new name, and he does not like being called someone he is not. The student provides a direct quotation (And what about you, Gogol? Do you want to be called another name? After a pause, he shakes his head) to support the idea. Because the student has provided a reasonable idea that is supported by accurate, relevant text evidence, this response indicates a satisfactory reading performance.

Score Point 3 — Exemplary Response to the Question

Exemplary responses indicate an accomplished reading performance.

These responses have the following characteristics.

- ❑ The idea is perceptive and reflects an awareness of the complexities of the text. The student is able to develop a coherent explanation of the idea by making discerning connections across the text.
- ❑ The text evidence used to support the idea is specific and well chosen. Overall, the evidence strongly supports the validity of the idea.
- ❑ The combination of the idea and the text evidence demonstrates a deep understanding of the text.

In the excerpt, Gogol's primary conflict is with his parents. They want him to "be called by a new name, a good name" at school, but "Gogol doesn't want a new name." These conflicting interests continue throughout the story. When Mrs. Lapidus enters, she takes Gogol's side. The excerpt finishes with Gogol's side prevailing; Mrs. Lapidus sends the parents a note "explaining that due to their son's preference he will be known as Gogol at school," and while the parents wonder what happened to their preference, in the end, "they have no choice but to give in." These opposing interests constitute the primary conflict in the excerpt.

Score Point 3

In this exemplary response, the student offers the perceptive idea that Gogol has "conflicting interests" because his wish not to have a new name differs from his parents' wish. The student supports the idea with well-chosen direct quotations and paraphrased text that contextualizes more quotations. The combination of perceptive idea and text evidence shows the student has a deep understanding of the selection and makes this an accomplished reading performance.

In the excerpt from "The Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri, Gogol's main conflict is finding his own voice. Bengali tradition states that each child, at birth, is given a formal and a good name. The good name is used by everyone except the parents; they use the formal name. Gogol doesn't want his good name, Nikhil, to be what everyone calls him. When his father says, "But his good name is Nikhil" (Gogol doesn't protest, he simply refuses to answer questions when addressed by Nikhil (Lahiri #43)). When alone with the principal of Gogol's new school Gogol is asked if he wants to be called by another name. In reply, "he shakes his head" (Lahiri #51). Gogol's parents then get a letter stating Gogol will only be known as Gogol at school, as are his wishes. In the end, Gogol courageously found his own voice and used it to get what he wanted all along.

Score Point 3

In this accomplished reading performance, the student presents the perceptive idea that Gogol's conflict stems from finding his own voice. The student supports this idea with a specific synopsis of the selection. Making discerning connections across the text, the student is able to create a coherent response that demonstrates a deep understanding of the selection.

In the excerpt "The Namesake," Gogol's primary conflict is that he doesn't understand why he needs a "good name" or a second name and he doesn't like to go by the "good name" in public or at school. In the story, it said "Gogol doesn't want a new name. He can't understand why he has to answer to anything else." "Why do I need a new name?" It was vividly that he doesn't want another name instead of "Gogol" but what he doesn't understand is that his cultural tradition usually have two names one for home use and one for public use. So instead of the "good name" use in school he uses his main name "Gogol" because of his misunderstanding of the concept of his cultural tradition.

Score Point 3

In this exemplary response, the student presents the perceptive idea that Gogol's conflict comes from not understanding the cultural tradition behind the use of a "good name." The direct quotation the student uses to support the idea is well chosen. In addition, the student links the idea and a series of direct quotations by providing an explanation of Gogol's reactions. By recognizing and identifying the complexity of Gogol's reactions and supporting them with textual evidence, the student demonstrates an accomplished reading performance.

In the passage, *The Namesake*, Gogol is faced with an issue of identity. Stated in the excerpt, "Gogol doesn't want a new name. He can't understand why he has to answer to anything else." This shows that Gogol is not accepting of the new name that he has acquired. Furthermore, it reflects his lack of understanding of what a "good name" is. Therefore, Gogol's initial experience of kindergarten is conflicting due to the confusion of name use and Bengali tradition. In conclusion, the kindergartner is confronted with wanting to find comfort in his own name or to fulfill his parents' desire of a "good name."

Score Point 3

In this exemplary response, the student offers the perceptive idea that an issue of identity is at the root of the main conflict in this excerpt. The text evidence from the selection supports this idea by showing the confusion Gogol experiences wanting to fulfill his parents' desire of a "good name" while also desiring the comfort he finds in his own name. The student analyzes Gogol's character with an explanation of how the textual evidence is linked to the idea of identity. The combination of the idea, analysis, and text evidence demonstrates an accomplished reading performance.

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