

Ra Rannóg Pholasáí,
Churaclaim agus Mheasúnachta,
An Roinn Oideachais agus
Scileanna, Bloc 2, Sráid
Maoilbhríde,
Baile Átha Cliath 1



Curriculum and Assessment
Policy Unit,
Department of Education
and Skills, Block 2
Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

Fax (01) 8892040

☎ (01) 8892291

Circular Letter 0007/2015

**To the Principals and Boards of Management of Second-Level Schools and the CEOs of
Education and Training Boards**

Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate English Examination in 2017

The Department of Education and Skills wishes to inform the management authorities of second-level schools that the attached lists include the prescribed material for the Leaving Certificate English Examination in 2017.

The Department requests school authorities to bring this circular to the attention of all English teachers.

The Department requests school authorities to give adequate notice of these texts to students before the start of the relevant school year.

Breda Naughton
Principal Officer
February 2015

List of prescribed texts for the Leaving Certificate English examination of 2017

As the syllabus indicates, students are required to study from this list:

1. **One text on its own** from the following texts: -

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| AUSTEN, Jane | Emma (H/O) |
| Maeve | BINCHY, Circle of Friends (O) |
| FITZGERALD, F. Scott | The Great Gatsby (H/O) |
| IBSEN, Henrik | A Doll's House (H/O) |
| KEANE, John B. | Big Maggie (O) |
| McCABE, Eugene | Death and Nightingales (H/O) |
| O'CASEY, Sean | The Plough and the Stars (O) |
| RYAN, Donal | The Spinning Heart (O) |
| SHAKESPEARE, William | Hamlet (H/O) |

- One of the texts marked with H/O may be studied on its own at Higher Level and at Ordinary Level.
- One of the texts marked with O may be studied on its own at Ordinary Level.

2. **Three other texts** in a comparative manner, according to the comparative modes prescribed for this course. All texts selected must be from the prescribed list for 2017.

- Any texts from the list of texts prescribed for comparative study, **other than the one already chosen for study on its own**, may be selected for the comparative study.
- At Higher Level and at Ordinary Level, a film may be studied as one of the three texts in a comparative study.

3. The Comparative Modes for Examination in 2017 are:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Higher Level</u> | (i) | Theme or Issue |
| | (ii) | The General Vision and Viewpoint |
| | (iii) | Literary Genre |
| <u>Ordinary Level</u> | (i) | Relationships |
| | (ii) | Theme |
| | (iii) | Hero, Heroine, Villain |

4. Shakespearean Drama

At **Higher Level** a play by Shakespeare **must be one of the texts chosen**. This can be studied on its own or as an element in a comparative study.

At **Ordinary Level** the study of a play by Shakespeare is **optional**.

5. Poetry

Higher Level

A selection from the poetry of **eight** poets is prescribed for Higher Level.

Students will be expected to have studied **at least six poems** by each poet.

Ordinary Level

A total of **36 poems** is prescribed for Ordinary Level.

List of Texts prescribed for comparative study, for examination in the year 2017

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| AUSTEN, Jane | Emma |
| BENNETT, Alan | The Uncommon Reader |
| BINCHY, Maeve | Circle of Friends |
| BRONTË, Emily | Wuthering Heights |
| COLLINS, Ciarán | The Gamal |
| CHBOSKY, Stephen | The Perks of Being a Wallflower |
| CUARÓN, Alfonso (Dir.) | Children of Men (Film) |
| DICKENS, Charles | Great Expectations |
| FITZGERALD, F. Scott | The Great Gatsby |
| FITZGIBBON, Ian (Dir.) | Death of a Superhero (Film) |
| FRIEL, Brian | Translations |
| GAIMAN, Neil | The Ocean at the End of the Lane |
| GREEN, John | The Fault in Our Stars |
| HAZANAVICIUS, Michel (Dir.) | The Artist (Film) |
| HITCHCOCK, Alfred (Dir.) | Rear Window (Film) |
| HOOPER, Tom (Dir.) | The King's Speech (Film) |
| IBSEN, Henrik | A Doll's House |
| JOYCE, James | The Dead (in a dramatization by Frank McGuinness) |
| KEANE, John B. | Big Maggie |
| KEEGAN, Claire | Foster |
| Barbara | KINGSOLVER, |
| LEONARD, Hugh | Flight Behaviour |
| LONCRINE, Richard (Dir.) | Home Before Night |
| McCABE, EUGENE | Richard III (Film) |
| MCDONAGH, Martin | Death and Nightingales |
| MARTEL, Yann | A Skull in Connemara |
| | Life of Pi |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| MILLER, Arthur | All My Sons MILLER, |
| Madeline | The Song of Achilles |
| O’CASEY, Sean | The Plough and the Stars |
| ORWELL, George | 1984 |
| REITMAN, Jason (Dir.) | Juno (Film) |
| RYAN, Donal | The Spinning Heart |
| SHAKESPEARE, William | Hamlet |
| | Othello |
| SOPHOCLES | Oedipus the King |
| WATERS, Sarah | The Little Stranger |
| ZUSAK, Markus | The Book Thief |

Poets prescribed for Higher Level

BISHOP, Elizabeth

The Fish
The Bight
At the Fishhouses
The Prodigal
Questions of Travel
The Armadillo
Sestina
First Death in Nova Scotia
Filling Station
In the Waiting Room

BOLAND, Eavan

The War Horse
Child of Our Time
The Famine Road
The Shadow Doll
White Hawthorn in the West of Ireland
Outside History
The Black Lace Fan my Mother Gave Me
This Moment
The Pomegranate
Love

DONNE, John

The Sunne Rising
Song: Go, and catch a falling star
The Anniversarie
Song: Sweetest love, I do not goe
The Dreame (Deare love, for nothing less than thee...)
A Valediction Forbidding Mourning
The Flea
Batter my heart
At the round earth's imagined corners
Thou hast made me

DURCAN, Paul

Nessa
The Girl with the Keys to Pearse's Cottage
The Difficulty that is Marriage
Wife Who Smashed Television Gets Jail
Parents
En Famille, 1979
Madman
"Windfall", 8 Parnell Hill, Cork
Six Nuns Die in Convent Inferno
Sport

Father's Day, 21 June 1992
The Arnolfini Marriage
Ireland 2002
Rosie Joyce
The MacBride Dynasty

ELIOT, Thomas S

The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock
Preludes
Aunt Helen
from The Waste Land II. A Game of Chess
Journey of the Magi
from Landscapes
III Usk
IV Rannoch, by Glencoe
from The Four Quartets East Coker IV

HOPKINS, Gerard Manley

God's Grandeur
Spring
As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame
The Windhover
Pied Beauty
Felix Randal
Inversnaid
I wake and feel the fell of dark, not day
No worst there is none. Pitched past pitch of grief
Thou art indeed just, Lord, if I contend

KEATS, John

To one who has been long in city pent
Ode To A Nightingale
On First Looking into Chapman's Homer
Ode On A Grecian Urn
When I have fears that I may cease to be
La Belle Dame Sans Merci
To Autumn
Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art

PLATH, Sylvia

Black Rook in Rainy Weather
The Times Are Tidy
Morning Song
Finisterre
Mirror
Pheasant

Elm
Poppies in July
The Arrival of the Bee Box
Child

Poetry prescribed for Ordinary Level

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| BISHOP, Elizabeth | The Fish The Prodigal Filling Station |
| BOLAND, Eavan | Child of Our Time This Moment Love |
| BRYCE, Colette | Self-Portrait in the Dark (with Cigarette) |
| DONNE, John | The Flea Song: Go and catch a falling star |
| DURCAN, Paul | Wife Who Smashed Television Gets Jail Parents Sport |
| ELIOT, Thomas Stearns | Preludes Aunt Helen |
| GALLAGHER, Tess | The Hug |
| HARDIE, Kerry | Daniel's Duck |
| HOPKINS, Gerard Manley | Spring Inversnaid |
| KEATS, John | On First Looking into Chapman's Homer La Belle Dame Sans Merci |
| KENNELLY, Brendan | Night Drive |
| LOCHHEAD, Liz | Revelation |
| LONGLEY, Michael | Badger |
| MILTON, John | When I consider how my light is spent |
| MULDOON, Paul | Anseo |
| O'CALLAGHAN, Julie | Problems |
| O'REILLY, Caitriona | Interlude |
| PERRY, Paul | River of Light |
| PIERCY, Marge | Will we work together? |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| PLATH, Sylvia | Poppies in July Child The Arrival of the Bee Box |
| SIRR, Peter | Madly Singing in the City |
| SOTO, Gary | Oranges |
| STAFFORD, William | Travelling Through the Dark |
| WOODS, Joseph | Letting the Cat out of the Bag |