



Circular Letter 0024/2018

**To the Principals and Boards of Management of Second-Level Schools and Special
Schools, and to the Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards**

**Prescribed Material for the
Leaving Certificate English Examination in 2020**

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 June 2020.

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

The Department reminds schools that any use of these texts in Transition Year should be in accordance with the Department's published guidelines on the content of the Transition Year programme.

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

Eamonn Moran
Principal Officer
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22 March 2018

List of prescribed texts for the Leaving Certificate English examination of June 2020.

Texts chosen for study must be from this list.

As the syllabus indicates, students are required to study:

- One text for study on its own – See 1 below
- Three other comparative texts – See 2 below
- A selection of poetry – See 3 below

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**.

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

ATWOOD, Margaret	The Handmaid's Tale (H/O)
AUSTEN, Jane	Persuasion (H/O)
BARRY, Sebastian	Days Without End (H/O)
CARR, Marina	By the Bog of Cats (O)
DONOGHUE, Emma	Room (O)
ORWELL, George	1984 (O)
SHAKESPEARE, William	Hamlet (H/O)
SHAKESPEARE, William	The Tempest (H/O)
SYNGE, J. M.	The Playboy of the Western World (O)

N.B. Texts marked H/O may be studied at Higher Level or at Ordinary Level. Texts marked O may be studied only at Ordinary Level.

2. Three other texts in a comparative manner, according to the comparative modes prescribed for this course.

- 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.
- In this list, texts are in three broad categories: novel and memoir; drama; and film. At Higher Level and at Ordinary Level, a film may be studied as **one** of the three texts in a comparative study. **Only the texts identified on the list as films may be studied as films.**

The Comparative Modes for Examination in 2020 are:

<u>Higher Level</u>	(i)	Literary Genre
	(ii)	Theme or Issue
	(iii)	Cultural Context

<u>Ordinary Level</u>	(i)	Hero, Heroine, Villain
	(ii)	Theme
	(iii)	Social setting

List of texts prescribed for comparative study, for examination in the year 2020

Novel / Memoir

ADICHIE, Ngozi Chimimanda	Americanah
ATKINSON, Kate	Behind the Scenes at the Museum
ATWOOD, Margaret	The Handmaid's Tale
AUSTEN, Jane	Persuasion
BARRY, Sebastian	Days Without End
BRONTË, Emily	Wuthering Heights
DONOGHUE, Emma	Room
ELIOT, George	Silas Marner
FITZGERALD, F. Scott	The Great Gatsby
FITZMAURICE, Simon	It's Not Yet Dark
GAUTREAUX, Tim	The Next Step in the Dance
LEVI, Primo	If This Is A Man
O'CONNOR, Joseph	Star of the Sea
ORWELL, George	1984
PEACE, David	The Damned Utd.
RYAN, Donal	The Spinning Heart
SATRAPI, Marjane	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood and The Story of a Return (Graphic Memoir)
SIMPSON, Joe	Touching the Void
VÁSQUEZ, Juan Gabriel	The Sound of Things Falling
WILDE, Oscar	The Picture of Dorian Gray (1891 version)

Drama

BECKETT, Samuel	Waiting for Godot
BURKE-BROGAN, Patricia	Eclipsed
CARR, Marina	By the Bog of Cats
IBSEN, Henrik	A Doll's House
MCGUINNESS, Frank	Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching towards the Somme
SHAKESPEARE, William	Hamlet The Tempest
SOPHOCLES	Antigone
SYNGE, J. M.	The Playboy of the Western World

Film

CROWLEY, John	Brooklyn
EASTWOOD, Clint	Unforgiven
FARHADI, Asghar	About Elly
GRANIK, Debra	Winter's Bone
HOLMES, Alex	Stop at Nothing: The Lance Armstrong Story
HOOPER, Tom	Les Misérables
WARCHUS, Matthew	Pride
WILDER, Billy	Some Like It Hot

3. 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.

Poets prescribed for higher level

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

DICKINSON, Emily

“Hope” is the thing with feathers
There’s a certain Slant of light
I felt a Funeral, in my Brain
A Bird came down the Walk
I heard a Fly buzz – when I died
The Soul has Bandaged moments
I could bring You Jewels – had I a mind to
A narrow Fellow in the Grass
I taste a liquor never brewed
After great pain, a formal feeling comes

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
FROST, Robert	The Tuft of Flowers Mending Wall After Apple-Picking The Road Not Taken Birches 'Out, Out-' Spring Pools Acquainted with the Night Design Provide, Provide
LAWRENCE, D.H.	Call into Death Piano The Mosquito Snake Humming-Bird Intimates Delight of Being Alone Absolute Reverence What have they done to you? Baby-Movements II, " <i>Trailing Clouds</i> " Bavarian Gentians
NÍ CHUILLEANÁIN, Eiléan	Lucina Schynning in Silence of the Night The Second Voyage Deaths and Engines Street Fireman's Lift All for You Following Kilcash Translation The Bend in the Road On Lacking the Killer Instinct To Niall Woods and Xenya Ostrovskaja, married in Dublin on 9 September 2009
RICH, Adrienne	Aunt Jennifer's Tigers Uncle Speaks in the Drawing Room Power Storm Warnings

Living in Sin
The Roofwalker
Our Whole Life
Trying to Talk with a Man
Diving Into the Wreck
From a Survivor

WORDSWORTH, William

To My Sister
A slumber did my spirit seal
She dwelt among the untrodden ways
Composed upon Westminster Bridge
It is a beautiful evening, calm and free
The Solitary Reaper
from The Prelude:
 The Stolen Boat [lines 357-400]
 Skating [lines 425-463]
Lines Composed...above Tintern Abbey

Poets prescribed for ordinary level

AUDEN, W.H.	Funeral Blues
BOLAND, Eavan	Child of Our Time This Moment Love
BROWNING, Elizabeth Barrett	How Do I Love Thee?
DUFFY, Carol Ann	Valentine
DICKINSON, Emily	I felt a Funeral, in my Brain I heard a Fly buzz – when I died
DURCAN, Paul	Wife Who Smashed Television Gets Jail Parents Sport
DYAR, Martin	Death and the Post Office
FRANCE, Linda	If Love Was Jazz
FROST, Robert	The Tuft of Flowers Mending Wall 'Out, Out—'
HERRICK, Robert	To Daffodils
HUDGINS, Andrew	The Cadillac in the Attic
LAWRENCE, D.H.	Humming-Bird Baby-Movements II, "Trailing Clouds"
LEDWIDGE, Francis	Lament for Thomas MacDonagh
LOCHHEAD, Liz	Revelation
MORRISSEY, Sinéad	Genetics
NÍ CHUILLEANÁIN, Eiléan	Street To Niall Woods and Xenya Ostrovskaja, married in Dublin on 9 September 2009
NOWLAN, Alden	In Praise of the Great Bull Walrus
O'MALLEY, Mary	<i>Cealtrach</i>
PIERCY, Marge	Will we work together?
RICH, ADRIENNE	Aunt Jennifer's Tigers Uncle Speaks in the Drawing Room
SHEEHAN, Eileen	My Father, Long Dead
SMITHER, Elizabeth	On the euthanasia of a pet dog
WORDSWORTH, William	She dwelt among the untrodden ways It is a beautiful evening, calm and free from The Prelude: Skating [lines 425-463]
ZEPHANIAH, Benjamin	The Sun