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 2021

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 2021.

The Department requests school authorities to bring this circular to the attention of all English teachers. School authorities and teachers should note that while this is a list of prescribed texts, no specific text is compulsory, although at Higher Level one of the listed Shakespeare plays must be studied.

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
15 March 2019

As the syllabus indicates, students are required to study:

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

Texts chosen for study must be from this list.

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)
   - BARRY, Sebastian Days Without End (H/O)
   - BRONTE, Emily Wuthering Heights (H/O)
   - CARR, Marina By the Bog of Cats (O)
   - DONOGHUE, Emma Room (O)
   - FRIEL, Brian Philadelphia Here I Come (O)
   - ORWELL, George 1984 (O)
   - SHAKESPEARE, William King Lear (H/O)
   - SHAKESPEARE, William The Tempest (H/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 2021 are:

**Higher Level**
- (i) Theme or Issue
- (ii) Cultural Context
- (iii) General Vision and Viewpoint

**Ordinary Level**
- (i) Theme
- (ii) Social setting
- (iii) Relationships
List of texts prescribed for comparative study, for examination in the year 2021

**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
- **DOERR, Anthony** All the Light We Cannot See
- **DONOGHUE, Emma** Room
- **ELIOT, George** Silas Marner
- **FITZMAURICE, Simon** It’s Not Yet Dark
- **ISHIGURO, Kazuo** Never Let Me Go
- **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)
- **TAYLOR, Sara** The Lauras
- **WALLACE, Jason** Out of Shadows
- **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
- **FRIEL, Brian** Philadelphia Here I Come
- **McGUINNESS, Frank** Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching towards the Somme
- **RAINE, Nina** Tribes
- **SHAKESPEARE, William** King Lear
- **SHAKESPEARE, William** The Tempest
- **SOPHOCLES** Oedipus the King

**Film**
- **CROWLEY, John** Brooklyn
- **EASTWOOD, Clint** Unforgiven
- **FARHADI, Asghar** About Elly
- **GRANIK, Debra** Winter’s Bone
- **LANDIS, John** Trading Places
- **McQUEEN, Steve** Hunger
- **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

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

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

HEANEY, Seamus
The Forge
Bogland
The Tollund Man
Mossbawn: Two Poems in Dedication (1) Sunlight
A Constable Calls
The Skunk
The Harvest Bow
The Underground
Postscript
A Call
Tate’s Avenue
The Pitchfork
Lightenings viii. (The annals say...)

HOPKINS, Gerard Manley
God’s Grandeur
Spring
As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame
The Windhover
Pied Beauty
Felix Randal
Inversnайд
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
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