



Circular Number: 0019/2023

To: Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teaching Staff of Post-Primary Schools, Special Schools and Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards (ETBs).

Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate English Examination in 2025

The Department of Education 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 2025.

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.

This Circular can be accessed on www.gov.ie.

Enquiries regarding this Circular should be e-mailed to CAP@education.gov.ie

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29 March 2023



Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate English Examination in 2025

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: -

BRONTË, Anne	The Tenant of Wildfell Hall (H/O)
DOERR, Anthony	All the Light We Cannot See (H/O)
HANSBERRY, Lorraine	A Raisin in the Sun (O)
KEANE, John B.	Sive (O)
MILLER, Arthur	The Crucible (H/O)
RASH, Ron	The Cove (O)
SHAKESPEARE, William	King Lear (H/O)
SHELLEY, Mary	Frankenstein (H/O) (1831 version)
WHITEHEAD, Colson	The Underground Railroad (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 2025 are:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| <u>Higher Level</u> | (i) | Theme or issue |
| | (ii) | Cultural Context |
| | (iii) | General Vision and Viewpoint |
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| <u>Ordinary Level</u> | (i) | Theme |
| | (ii) | Social Setting |
| | (iii) | Relationships |



**List of Texts prescribed for comparative study, for examination in the year
2025**

Novel / Memoir

ADICHIE, Chimamanda Ngozi	Purple Hibiscus
AUSTEN, Jane	Pride and Prejudice
BARKER, Pat	The Silence of the Girls
BARRETT, Colin	Young Skins
BARRY, Sebastian	Days Without End
BRONTË, Anne	The Tenant of Wildfell Hall
CHANDLER, Raymond	The Big Sleep
DOERR, Anthony	All the Light We Cannot See
DU MAURIER, Daphne	Rebecca
GREGORY, Tom	A Boy in the Water
HARDY, Thomas	The Mayor of Casterbridge
ISHIGURO, Kazuo	Never Let Me Go
KEEGAN, Claire	Small Things Like These
O'CONNOR, Nuala	Miss Emily
O'FARRELL, Maggie	Hamnet
OWENS, Delia	Where the Crawdads Sing
RASH, Ron	The Cove
SHELLEY, Mary	Frankenstein (1831 version)
WESTOVER, Tara	Educated
WHITEHEAD, Colson	The Underground Railroad



Drama

BUTTERWORTH, Jez	The Ferryman
EURIPIDES	Medea
HANSBERRY, Lorraine	A Raisin in the Sun
KEANE, John B.	Sive
Mc MAHON, Phillip	Once before I go
MILLER, Arthur	The Crucible
SAMUELS, Diane	Kindertransport
SHAKESPEARE, William	King Lear
	The Merry Wives of Windsor

Film

ANDERSON, Wes	The Grand Budapest Hotel
BREATHNACH, Paddy	Rosie
DARABONT, Frank	The Shawshank Redemption
ERGÜVEN, Deniz Gamze	Mustang
GERWIG, Greta	Ladybird
JOHNSON, Rian	Knives Out
KAPADIA, Asif	Diego Maradona
KAZAN, Elia	On the Waterfront



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 2025

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

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

KAVANAGH, Patrick

Inniskeen Road: July Evening
Shancoduff
from The Great Hunger Section I
Advent
A Christmas Childhood
Epic
Canal Bank Walk
Lines Written on a Seat on the Grand Canal
The Hospital
On Raglan Road

MAHON, Derek

Grandfather
Day Trip to Donegal
Ecclesiastes
After the Titanic
As It Should Be
A Disused Shed in Co. Wexford



Rathlin
The Chinese Restaurant in Portrush
Kinsale
Antarctica

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

SMITH, Tracy K.

Joy (Elegy 1)
Dominion over the beasts of the Earth
The Searchers
Letter to a Photojournalist Going In
The Universe is a House Party
The Museum of Obsolescence
Don't you wonder, sometimes?
It's Not
The Universe as Primal Scream
The Greatest Personal Privation
I am 60 odd years of age - *from* I will tell you the truth
about this, I will tell you all about it
Ghazal

Poets prescribed for ordinary level 2025

BOLAND, Eavan

Child of Our Time
This Moment
Love



CLARKE, Austin	New Liberty Hall
COLERIDGE, Samuel Taylor	Kubla Khan
DICKINSON, Emily	I felt a Funeral, in my Brain I Heard a fly buzz – when I died
DUNMORE, Helen	To My Nine-Year-Old Self
ELIOT, T.S.	Preludes Aunt Helen
GIOVANNI, Nikki	Nikki Rosa
HALDEMAN, Lauren	Instead of Dying
HOPKINS, Gerard Manley	Spring Inversnaid
HUGHES, Ted	The Thought Fox
KAVANAGH, Patrick	Shancoduff A Christmas Childhood On Raglan Road
KEEGAN, Colm	Memorial
LOCHHEAD, Liz	Revelation
MAHON, Derek	Grandfather After the Titanic Antarctica
MORISSEY, Sinéad	Genetics
OLUSANYA, Felicia	For Our Mothers
PLATH, Sylvia	Poppies in July Child
ROBINSON, Edwin Arlington	Reuben Bright
SHAKESPEARE, William	Sonnet XVIII Shall I Compare Thee



SEIBLES, Tim	Commercial Break: Roadrunner, Uneasy
SMITH, Tracy K	It's Not The Greatest Personal Privation The Searchers
SMITHER, Elizabeth	On the Euthanasia of a Pet Dog
TRAYNOR, Jessica	The Artane Band
WRIGHT, James	Lying in a Hammock at William Duffy's Farm in Pine Island, Minnesota