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 2019

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 2019.

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
February 2017
List of prescribed texts for the Leaving Certificate English examination of June 2019. 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 Section 1 below
- Three other comparative texts – See Section 2 below
- A selection of poetry – See Section 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 a text within the comparative study. At Ordinary Level the study of a play by Shakespeare is optional.

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

   ADICHIE, Chimamanda Ngozi  
   Americanah (H/O)

   ATWOOD, Margaret  
   The Handmaid’s Tale (H/O)

   AUSTEN, Jane  
   Persuasion (H/O)

   CARR, Marina  
   By the Bog of Cats (H/O)

   DONOGHUE, Emma  
   Room (O)

   FITZGERALD, F. Scott  
   The Great Gatsby (O)

   RYAN, Donal  
   The Spinning Heart (O)

   SHAKESPEARE, William  
   Macbeth (H/O)

   SYNGE, J. M.  
   The Playboy of the Western World (O)

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

2. **Three other texts to be studied 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 texts identified on the list as films may be studied as films.

The Comparative Modes for Examination in 2019 are:

**Higher Level**

(i) General Vision and Viewpoint

(ii) Literary Genre

(iii) Theme or Issue

**Ordinary Level**

(i) Relationships

(ii) Hero, Heroine, Villain

(iii) Theme
List of texts prescribed for comparative study, for examination in the year 2019

**Novel / Memoir**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADICHE, Chimamanda Ngozi</td>
<td>Americanah</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUSTEN, Jane</td>
<td>Persuasion</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATWOOD, Margaret</td>
<td>The Handmaid’s Tale</td>
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<tr>
<td>BINCHY, Maeve</td>
<td>Circle of Friends</td>
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<td>BRONTÉ, Emily</td>
<td>Wuthering Heights</td>
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<td>DONOGHUE, Emma</td>
<td>Room</td>
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<td>ELIOT, George</td>
<td>Silas Marner</td>
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<tr>
<td>FITZGERALD, F. Scott</td>
<td>The Great Gatsby</td>
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<td>FITZMAURICE, Simon</td>
<td>It’s Not Yet Dark</td>
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<td>GAIMAN, Neil</td>
<td>The Ocean at the End of the Lane</td>
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<td>GAUTREAUX, Tim</td>
<td>The Next Step in the Dance</td>
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<td>KEEGAN, Claire</td>
<td>Foster</td>
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<td>McCabe, EUGENE</td>
<td>Death and Nightingales</td>
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<td>O’CONNOR, Joseph</td>
<td>Star of the Sea</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORWELL, George</td>
<td>1984</td>
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<td>PEACE, David</td>
<td>The Damned Utd</td>
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<tr>
<td>RYAN, Donal</td>
<td>The Spinning Heart</td>
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<tr>
<td>SATRAPI, Marjane</td>
<td>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood and The Story of a Return (Graphic Memoir)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIMPSON, Joe</td>
<td>Touching the Void</td>
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<td>VÁSQUEZ, Juan Gabriel</td>
<td>The Sound of Things Falling</td>
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<td>WILDE, Oscar</td>
<td>The Picture of Dorian Gray</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Drama**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARR, Marina</td>
<td>By the Bog of Cats</td>
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<tr>
<td>IBSEN, Henrik</td>
<td>A Doll’s House</td>
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<tr>
<td>KEANE, John B.</td>
<td>Big Maggie</td>
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<td>McDonagh, Martin</td>
<td>A Skull in Connemara</td>
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<td>MILLER, Arthur</td>
<td>All My Sons</td>
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<td>SHAKESPEARE, William</td>
<td>Macbeth</td>
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<td>The Tempest</td>
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<td>Antigone</td>
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<td>SOPHOCLES</td>
<td>The Playboy of the Western World</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYNGE, J. M.</td>
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</table>

**Film**

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<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CROWLEY, John</td>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
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<td>EASTWOOD, Clint</td>
<td>Unforgiven</td>
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<td>FARHADI, Asghar</td>
<td>About Elly</td>
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<td>HITCHCOCK, Alfred</td>
<td>Rear Window</td>
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<td>HOLMES, Alex</td>
<td>Stop at Nothing: The Lance Armstrong Story</td>
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<td>HOOPER, Tom</td>
<td>Les Misérables</td>
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<td>REITMAN, Jason</td>
<td>Juno</td>
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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

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
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

KENNELLY, Brendan

Begin
Bread
‘Dear Autumn Girl’
Poem from a Three Year Old
Oliver to His Brother
I See You Dancing, Father
A Cry for Art O’Leary
Things I Might Do
A Great Day
Fragments
The soul’s loneliness
Saint Brigid’s Prayer

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, “Trailing Clouds”
Bavarian Gentians

NÍ CHUILLEANÁIN, Eiléan

Lucina Schynning In Silence of the Nicht
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 Xena Ostrovskaya, married in Dublin on 9 September 2009

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

YEATS, William Butler

The Lake Isle of Innisfree
September 1913
The Wild Swans at Coole
An Irish Airman Foresees his Death
Easter 1916
The Second Coming
Sailing to Byzantium
from Meditations in Time of Civil War:
VI, The Stare’s Nest by My Window
In Memory of Eva Gore-Booth and Con Markiewicz
Swift’s Epitaph
An Acre of Grass
from Under Ben Bulben: V and VI
Politics
Poems prescribed for ordinary level

AUDEN, W.H.  
Funeral Blues

BEER, Patricia  
The Voice

BISHOP, Elizabeth  
The Fish

BROWNING, Elizabeth Barrett  
How Do I Love Thee?

CANNON, Moya  
Shrines

COERIDGE, Samuel Taylor  
Kubla Khan

DYAR, Martin  
Death and the Post Office

GALLAGHER, Tess  
The Hug

HARDIE, Kerry  
Daniel's Duck

HEALY, Randolph  
Frogs

HEANEY, Seamus  
A Constable Calls

HENRY, Brendan  
The Underground

A Call

HERRICK, Robert  
To Daffodils

HOPKINS, Gerard Manley  
Spring

INVERNSNAID

HUGHES, Ted  
Hawk Roosting

KENNELLY, Brendan  
Begin

Bread

SAINT BRIGID'S PRAYER

LAWRENCE, D.H.  
Humming-Bird

BABY-MOVEMENTS II, "TRAILING CLOUDS"

LODEN, Rachel  
Memo from the Benefits Department

MISTRAL, Gabriela  
Let Him Not Grow Up (trans. Ursula LeGuin)

NÍ CHUILLEANÁIN, Eiléan  
Street

TO NIALL WOODS AND XENYA OSTROVSKAIA, MARRIED IN DUBLIN ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2009

O'MALLEY, Mary  
Caoineadh Mháire

PLATH, Sylvia  
Poppies in July

Child

THE ARRIVAL OF THE BEE BOX

SMITHER, Elizabeth  
On the euthanasia of a pet dog

YEATS, William Butler  
The Wild Swans at Coole

An Irish Airman Foresees his Death

ZEPHANIAH, Benjamin  
The Sun