



**Circular Letter 0023/2019**

**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

## List of prescribed texts for the Leaving Certificate English examination of June 2021.

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:**

<u>Higher Level</u>	(i)	Theme or Issue
	(ii)	Cultural Context
	(iii)	General Vision and Viewpoint

<u>Ordinary Level</u>	(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
	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

## Poems prescribed for ordinary level

BISHOP, Elizabeth	The Fish The Prodigal Filling Station
BOLAND, Eavan	Child of Our Time This Moment Love
BROWNING, Robert	Meeting at Night
CLANCHY, Kate	Driving to the Hospital
DURCAN, Paul	Wife Who Smashed Television Gets Jail Parents Sport
FROST, Robert	The Tuft of Flowers 'Out, Out—'
GUNN, Thom	Considering the Snail
HEALY, Randolph	Frogs Primula Veris
HEANEY, Seamus	A Constable Calls The Underground A Call
HERBERT, George	Easter Wings
HOPKINS, Gerard Manley	Spring Inversnaid
HUDGINS, Andrew	The Glass Hammer
KEATS, John	On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer La Belle Dame Sans Merci
LEDWIDGE, Francis	Lament for Thomas MacDonagh
MURPHY, Richard	Moonshine
O'CALLAGHAN, Julie	The Net Problems
O'MALLEY, Mary	Caoineadh Mháire
PLATH, Sylvia	Poppies in July Child
SHELLEY, Percy Bysshe	Ozymandias
SHUTTLE, Penelope	Jungian Cows
SOTO, Gary	Oranges
WHEATLEY, David	Chronicle