



Circular Number: 0004/2021

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 2023

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 2023.

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
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit

29 January 2021



Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate English Examination in 2023

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: -

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DOERR, Anthony | All the Light We Cannot See (H/O) |
| FRIEL, Brian | Philadelphia, Here I Come! (O) |
| HANSBERRY, Lorraine | A Raisin in the Sun (O) |
| IBSEN, Henrik | A Doll's House (H/O) |
| RASH, Ron | The Cove (O) |
| SHAKESPEARE, William | Macbeth (H/O) |
| SHELLEY, Mary | Frankenstein (H/O) |
| TAYLOR, Sara | The Lauras (O) |
| WILDE, Oscar | The Picture of Dorian Gray (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 2023 are:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| <u>Higher Level</u> | (i) | General Vision and Viewpoint |
| | (ii) | Literary Genre |
| | (iii) | Theme or issue |
| | | |
| <u>Ordinary Level</u> | (i) | Relationships |
| | (ii) | Hero, heroine, villain |
| | (iii) | Theme |

List of Texts prescribed for comparative study, for examination in the year 2023

Novel / Memoir

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ADICHIE, Chimamanda Ngozi | Purple Hibiscus |
| ATWOOD, Margaret | The Handmaid's Tale |
| BARRY, Sebastian | Days Without End |
| BRONTË, Emily | Wuthering Heights |
| CHANDLER, Raymond | The Big Sleep |
| DOERR, Anthony | All the Light We Cannot See |



| | |
|--------------------|---|
| DU MAURIER, Daphne | Rebecca |
| DONOGHUE, Emma | Room |
| ELIOT, George | Silas Marner |
| GREGORY, Tom | A Boy in the Water |
| ISHIGURO, Kazuo | Never Let Me Go |
| O'CONNOR, Joseph | Star of the Sea |
| O'CONNOR, Nuala | Miss Emily |
| OWENS, Delia | Where the Crawdads Sing |
| RASH, Ron | The Cove |
| SHELLEY, Mary | Frankenstein |
| TAYLOR, Sara | The Lauras |
| WALLACE, Jason | Out of Shadows |
| WESTOVER, Tara | Educated |
| WILDE, Oscar | The Picture of Dorian Gray (1891 version) |

Drama

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| BUTTERWORTH, Jez | The Ferryman |
| FRIEL, Brian | Philadelphia, Here I Come! |
| HANSBERRY, Lorraine | A Raisin in the Sun |
| IBSEN, Henrik | A Doll's House |
| RAINE, Nina | Tribes |
| SAMUELS, Diane | Kindertransport |



| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| SHAKESPEARE, William | Macbeth |
| | Othello |
| SOPHOCLES | Oedipus the King |

Film

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| BREATHNACH, Paddy | Rosie |
| CURTIZ, Michael | Casablanca |
| ERGÜVEN, Deniz Gamze | Mustang |
| GERWIG, Greta | Ladybird |
| GRANIK, Debra | Winter's Bone |
| KAPADIA, Asif | Diego Maradona |
| LANDIS, John | Trading Places |
| McQUEEN, Steve | Hunger |

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 2023

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 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

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

DONNE, John

The Sunne Rising
Song: Go, and catch a falling star
The Anniversarie
Song: Sweetest love, I do not goe
The Dreame (Deare love, for nothing less than
thee...)
A Valediction Forbidding Mourning
The Flea
Batter my heart
At the round earth’s imagined corners
Thou hast made me

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, Dublin
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

MEEHAN, Paula

Buying Winkles
The Pattern
The Statue of the Virgin at Granard Speaks
Cora, Auntie
The Exact Moment I Became a Poet
My Father Perceived as a Vision of St. Francis
Hearth Lesson
Prayer for the Children of Longing
Death of a Field
Them Ducks Died for Ireland

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

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 Bulbin: V and VI
Politics

Poets prescribed for ordinary level 2023

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| BISHOP, Elizabeth | The Fish The Prodigal Filling Station |
| BROOKS, Gwendolyn | kitchenette building |
| BRYCE, Colette | Mammy Dozes |
| DICKINSON, Emily | I felt a Funeral, in my Brain I Heard a fly buzz – when I died |
| DONNE, John | The Flea Song: Go, and catch a falling star |
| DUFFY, Carol Ann | Valentine |
| FRANCE, Linda | If Love Was Jazz |
| JOSEPH, Allison | My Father's Kites |



| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| KAVANAGH, Patrick | Shancoduff A Christmas Childhood |
| LODEN, Rachel | Memo from the Benefits Department |
| MAHON, Derek | Grandfather After the Titanic Antarctica |
| MEEHAN, Paula | Buying Winkles Hearth Lesson Prayer for the Children of Longing |
| MORRISSEY, Sinéad | Genetics |
| MULDOON, Paul | The Loaf |
| NOWLAN, Alden | In Praise of the Great Bull Walrus |
| OLUSANYA, Felicia | For Our Mothers |
| RAMSELL, Billy | Lament for Christy Ring |
| RICH, ADRIENNE | Aunt Jennifer's Tigers Uncle Speaks in the Drawing Room |
| ROBINSON, Edwin Arlington | Reuben Bright |
| SEIBLES, Tim | Commercial Break: Roadrunner, Uneasy |
| SHAKESPEARE, William | Sonnet XVIII Shall I Compare Thee |
| SHELLEY, Percy Bysshe | Ozymandias |
| STONE, Degna | Swimming |
| YEATS, William Butler | The Lake Isle of Innisfree The Wild Swans at Coole An Irish Airman Foresees his Death |