



Circular Number: 0002/2025

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 Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Examination 2027, 2028, 2029
(For student cohort commencing 5th year in Sept 2025, 2026 & 2027)

The Department of Education wishes to inform the management authorities of second-level schools that the **attached lists detail the prescribed material** for **Leaving Certificate Drama, Film and Theatre Studies** in the academic years **2025-27, 2026-28 and 2027-2029**. The prescribed material listed in this circular will be for examination in state examinations in 2027, 2028, 2029.

Students of Leaving Certificate Drama, Film and Theatre Studies must engage with two broad areas within each discipline (film and drama/theatre).

Area 1 consists of the **prescribed** genres, periods, styles or forms, together with their associated set films, plays and designated performances. From the options listed below students and teachers must identify a focus for study in film, and also in drama/theatre. (See *note on P.2*)

Area 2 allows students and teachers to freely choose a different, **unprescribed** focus (genre, period, style or form) for study in film and also in drama/theatre.

In addition to outlining prescribed material, this circular outlines the conditions governing choices in Area 2. These conditions seek to ensure equity of learner experiences for all students.

The Department requests school authorities to bring this circular to the attention of all Drama, Film, and Theatre Studies teachers and to give adequate notice of the outlined options to students before the start of the relevant school year.

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Area 1: Prescribed Area of Learning

Choose one focus of study from Options A, B, C listed in Prescribed Film

and

Choose one focus of study from Options A, B, C listed in Prescribed Drama/Theatre

PRESCRIBED FILM

OPTION A

Genre: European Art Cinema

Explore this genre and its effective expression on screen

Film: *An Cailín Ciúin* - directed by Colm Bairéad (2022)

or

OPTION B

Style: The directorial style of Steven Spielberg

Explore Spielberg's directorial style and its effective realisation on screen

Film: *Jaws* - directed by Steven Spielberg (1975)

or

OPTION C

Genre: Romance

Explore this genre and its effective communication on screen

Film: *Past Lives* - directed by Celine Song (2023)

PRESCRIBED DRAMA/ THEATRE

OPTION A

Style: Use of non-naturalistic production elements

Explore this style and its effective use in theatrical productions.

Designated Performance of set play: The 2018 performance by Fíabín sa Taibhdhearc of *Tóraíocht* (playwright: Philip Doherty; director: Mikel Murfi).

or

OPTION B

Style: Non End-On Theatre Staging

Explore this style and its effective realisation in theatrical productions

Designated Performance of set play: The 2017 performance by the National Theatre, London of *Mosquitoes* (playwright: Lucy Kirkwood; director: Rufus Norris)

or

OPTION C

Form: Tragicomedy

Explore this genre and its effective communication in theatrical productions

Designated Performance of set play: The 2023 performance by Druid of *The Shadow of a Gunman* (playwright: Sean O'Casey; director: Garry Hynes)

Note: School authorities and teachers should note that while this circular lists the films and designated performances of set plays prescribed for Area 1, **to complete their study of this area**, students must also explore a selection of extracts, scenes and/or clips from:

- **at least one film other than the prescribed production (film).**
- **and at least one piece of theatre other than the designated performance/set play (theatre).**

Schools select one focus of study from the prescribed film list (in either English or Irish) and one focus of study from the prescribed drama/theatre list (in either English or Irish). It is not necessary to have both choices in the same language. Schools may choose either language regardless of the language of schooling.

Area 2: Unprescribed Area of Learning

In Area 2, students and teachers will choose an unprescribed focus of study (genre, period, style or form) in film. They will also choose a focus of study in drama/theatre. In each field the focus of study chosen for Area 2 should be explored through the use of extracts, scenes, and/or clips.

The Department reminds schools that:

- The genre, period, style, form or production chosen as a focus for study for Area 2 cannot be any of the three options prescribed for Area 1.
- Texts prescribed for study in any other Leaving Certificate subject in the year in which students will be assessed in Leaving Certificate Drama, Film and Theatre Studies cannot be selected for further exploration in Area 1 or as a focus for exploration in Area 2.
- Any engagement in Transition Year with the above prescribed areas should be in accordance with the Department's published guidelines on the content of the Transition Year programme.

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

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