



**Circular Number: 0021/2025**

**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 English Examination in 2027**

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 2027.

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 published Transition Year Programme Statement.

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](http://www.gov.ie).

Enquiries regarding this Circular should be e-mailed to [CAP@education.gov.ie](mailto:CAP@education.gov.ie)

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**27 February 2025**



## Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate English Examination in 2027

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: -

CARR, Marina	Girl on an Altar (H/O)
HANSBERRY, Lorraine	A Raisin in the Sun (O)
KEANE, John B.	Sive (O)
O'FARRELL, Maggie	Hamnet (H/O)
RASH, Ron	The Cove (O)
SCOTT FITZGERALD, F	The Great Gatsby (H/O)
SHAKESPEARE, William	Othello (H/O)
STOKER, Bram	Dracula (H/O)
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 2027 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 2027**

**Novel / Memoir**

ADICHIE, Chimamanda Ngozi	Purple Hibiscus
BARKER, Pat	The Silence of the Girls
BARRETT, Colin	Young Skins
BRONTË, Anne	The Tenant of Wildfell Hall
BRONTË, Emily	Wuthering Heights
BUI, THI	The Best We Could Do
GARMUS, BONNIE	Lessons in Chemistry
HARDY, Thomas	The Mayor of Casterbridge
KEEGAN, Claire	Small Things Like These
McCORMACK, Mike	Notes from a Coma
O'FARRELL, Maggie	Hamnet
ORWELL, George	1984
OWENS, Delia	Where the Crawdads Sing
PINEIRO, Claudia	Elena Knows
RASH, Ron	The Cove
RYAN, Donal	The Spinning Heart
SCOTT FITZGERALD, F	The Great Gatsby
STOKER, Bram	Dracula
WHITEHEAD, Colson	The Underground Railroad
WINTERSON, Jeanette	Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal



## **Drama**

CARR, Marina	Girl on an Altar
EURIPIDES	Medea
HANSBERRY, Lorraine	A Raisin in the Sun
IBSEN, Henrik	A Doll's House
KEANE, John B.	Sive
Mc MAHON, Phillip	Once Before I Go
SHAKESPEARE, William	Macbeth
	Othello
WADE, Laura	Colder Than Here

## **Film**

ANDERSON, Wes	The Grand Budapest Hotel
DARABONT, Frank	The Shawshank Redemption
ERGÛVEN, Deniz Gamze	Mustang
GERWIG, Greta	Barbie
JOHNSON, Rian	Knives Out
KAPADIA, Asif	Diego Maradona
MC DONAGH, Martin	The Banshees of Inisherin
REED, Carol	The Third Man
SALVATORE, Gabriele	I'm Not Scared



### 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 2027

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  
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





### Poetry prescribed for ordinary level 2027

BROOKS, Gwendolyn	kitchenette building
BRYCE, Colette	Mammy Dozes
BISHOP, Elizabeth	The Fish The Prodigal Filling Station
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, Alison	My Father's Kites
KAVANAGH, Patrick	Shancoduff A Christmas Childhood
LODEN, Rachel	Memo from the Benefits Department
MAHON, Derek	Grandfather After the Titanic Antartica
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