



Circular Letter 0086/2024

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 Junior Cycle Irish

Specification for Junior Cycle Irish: Irish-medium schools (T1) (2023) and Specification for Junior Cycle Irish: English-medium schools (T2) (2023)

(For students presenting for Final Examination in 2027, 2028 and 2029)

Introduction

The Department of Education wishes to inform the management authorities of second-level schools, and of special schools providing students with a Junior Cycle programme aligned with level 3 of the National Framework of Qualifications, of the updated prescribed material for the second and third year of the Specification for *Junior Cycle Irish: Irish-medium schools (T1) (2023)* and the Specification for *Junior Cycle Irish: English-medium schools (T2) (2023)*.

This update arises from a review of the list of texts, undertaken by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), as announced in 2023. These prescribed materials apply to the cohort of students who will undergo final examination in 2027, 2028 and 2029.

This circular sets out the prescribed materials for:

- The Specification for *Junior Cycle Irish: Irish-medium schools (T1) (2023)* which is aimed at native speakers and learners of Irish who study subjects, other than English, through the medium of Irish.

And

- The Specification for *Junior Cycle Irish: English-medium schools (T2) (2023)* which is aimed at students who use Irish as a second language and are mainly in schools which operate through the medium of English.

Those reading this Circular should note that the prescribed texts listed in circular 0015/2023 are superseded by this Circular.



The Department requests school authorities to bring this Circular to the attention of all teachers of the T1 and T2 specifications. The Department also requests school authorities to give adequate notice to students at the start of the relevant school year of the adjustments to these lists of texts (T1 and T2).

This Circular can be accessed on [gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie).

Enquiries regarding this Circular should be emailed to:
CAP_Helpdesk@education.gov.ie

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The role of literature as it relates to the learning, teaching and assessment of Irish at Junior Cycle

The study of literary texts can support the development of a variety of relevant skills and understandings. Hence, they are a valuable resource for language learners. When the development of language skills is integrated with the study of literary texts, learners foster a wide range of abilities:

- language and literacy
- critical and creative skills
- cultural understandings
- personal growth.

Selecting texts

The role of students in selecting the texts they will study is very important. Building on the experience gained from studying literary texts in first year, over the course of second and third year, students, in collaboration with their teacher, will select:

T1	T2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• one (complete) novel• one (complete) play• five poems/songs• two short stories• two short films• five oral/local texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• two short films or one drama (complete)• one short story• four poems/songs• one (complete) novel <i>Higher level only</i>

Texts studied in first year should **not** be included in this selection.

Texts selected for study in second and third year must be selected from the prescribed list of texts presented in Appendix 1 for T1 learners and in Appendix 2 for T2 learners.

There can be different versions of many traditional songs. Therefore, students, together with their teacher, are free to choose the versions most suited to their own learning context. Advice can be sought on how to best to source appropriate local texts or versions of the traditional songs from the Department's support service Oide.

Literature and assessment

The purpose of assessment is to support learning. Schools are advised to consult the Specification for *Junior Cycle Irish: Irish-medium schools (T1) (2023)* or the Specification for *Junior Cycle Irish: English-medium schools (T2) (2023)* for guidance on assessment of Irish in Junior Cycle generally and on the



role of literary texts in these assessments. The Specification is available at www.curriculumonline.ie, [here](#).

Advice will also be available from Oide, the support service for teachers and school leaders (www.oide.ie) on how learning experiences for students of Irish can be designed in ways that facilitate formative and summative assessment of the skills developed through the sampling and study of literary texts.

Assessment of Irish for the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

Below is an overview of the place of literature in the assessment of students' learning in Junior Cycle Irish.

Classroom-Based Assessment 1: Language Portfolio

Students should use a literary text from the prescribed list for second and/or third year as a stimulus for at least one of the portfolio items selected.

Classroom-Based Assessment 2: Communicative Task

Students can use texts from the literature list for second and/or third year as stimulus for the subject/topic/creative piece.

Note: All Classroom-Based Assessments are at common level.

Assessment Task

- On completion of the Classroom-Based Assessments, students will undertake an Assessment Task.
- The Assessment Task will be completed after the second Classroom-Based Assessment and will relate to the learning outcomes of the second Classroom-Based Assessment.
- The State Examinations Commission marks the Assessment Task.

Information about Classroom-Based Assessments about the *Junior Cycle Irish: Irish-medium schools (T1): Guidelines for Classroom-Based Assessment and the Assessment Task* and *Junior Cycle Irish: English-medium schools (T2): Guidelines for Classroom-Based Assessment and the Assessment Task* are available on curriculumonline.ie, [here](#).

The Final Exam

- The State Examinations Commission will set the final examination.
- The examination will be at the end of third year.
- It will be a two-hour examination and will be at two levels: Higher and Ordinary.



- The exam will require students to demonstrate their language abilities in a range of tasks in which they will engage in various forms of personal and interactive communication.
- In the case of Higher Level and Ordinary level at T1 and Higher level only at T2, some tasks will seek students' personal/communicative response to literary texts. Such a task would not occur for those taking the Ordinary level T2 examination.



Appendix 1: Prescribed materials for Junior Cycle Irish T1

List of Prescribed Texts (T1)

(This list of prescribed texts supersedes those listed in circular 0015 / 2023)

Úrscéalta T1 / Novels T1			
Teideal / Title	Údar / Author	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
Doras Fuinneog Scuab	Seán Mac Mathúna	Leabhar Breac	2015
LabhairAmach.com	Áine Uí Fhoghlú	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
Sárú	Anna Heussaff	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
An Mianadóir	Jackie Mac Donncha	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2015
Comhcheilg Pháirc an Chrócaigh	Diarmaid Ó Ceallaigh	Coiscéim	2013
An Gárda Cósta	Máire Uí Dhufaigh	Leabhar Breac	2012
Eachtra ar Oileán na Rún	Briain Ó Broin	Leabhar Breac	2021
Éanna Corr	Antain Mac Lochlainn	Leabhar Breac	2024
I mo Chroí Istigh	Áine Ní Ghlinn	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2021
Maitrióisce	Siobhán Parkinson	Cois Life	2011



Gearrscéalta T1 / Short Stories T1				
Teideal / Title	Údar / Author	Cnuasach / Collection	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
An Eochair	Jackie Mac Donncha	Bróga Johnny Thomáis	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2012
Claonfhéachaint	Ré Ó Laighléis	Goimh agus Scéalta Eile	MÓINÍN	2004
Ag Cúinne M St. agus Wisconsin	Alex Hijmans	Idir Dhá Thír	Cois Life	2017
An Cluiche Mór	Ógie Ó Céilleachair	Katfish agus Scéalta Eile	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
M'Asal Beag Dubh	Pádraic Ó Conaire	Pádraic Ó Conaire: Rogha Scéalta (eag. Diarmuid de Faoite)	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2008
Bodach an Chóta Lachtna	Séamus Ó Searcaigh	Laochas	An Gúm	1945 2009
Díol agus Ceannach	Máirín Ní Choinceanainn	Guth na Mara	Gathanna Gréine Teo.	2012
An Buille	Liam Ó Flaithearta	Dúil	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2012
Na Bóithre	Pádraig Mac Piarais	Ó Pheann an Phiarsaigh	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2016



Filíocht T1 / Poetry T1				
Teideal / Title	File / Poet	Cnuasach / Ar fáil ag / Collection / Available at	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
Filleadh ar an gCathair	Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh	The Coast Road	Gallery Books	2016
An Foclóirí	Colm Breathnach	An Fear Marbh	Coiscéim	1998
Ceist na Teangan	Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill	Pharaoh's Daughter	Gallery Press	1990
Gaiscíoch an Chamáin	Micheál Ó Conghaile	Comhrá Caillí	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	1987
Aongus	Johnny Chóil Mhaidhc	Buille Faoi Thuairim Gabha	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	1987
Sámhchodladh	Colm Breathnach	An Fear Marbh	Coiscéim	1998
Piseoga	Louis de Paor	Ag Greadadh Bás sa Reilig	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2005
Deireadh Cóisire	Gearóid Mac Lochlainn	Na Scéalaithe	Coiscéim	1999
Ceithre Ráithe na Bliana	Pádraig Mac Suibhne	Solas Uaigneach	An Sagart	1992
Máthair	Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill	Northern Lights	Gallery Books / The Gallery Press	2018
Port na bPúcaí	Dairena Ní Chinnéide	Poll na mBabies	Coiscéim	2008
M'athair	Áine Ní Ghlinn	Rúin Oscailte	Coiscéim	2021



Amhráin T1 / Songs T1	
Teideal / Title	Scríbhneoir / Amhránaí / Writer / Singer
An Bóthar	Mark Ó Loinsigh
Beir mo Dhúthracht	Pádraig Ó Siochfhradha
Ceap do Shuaimhneas	IMLÉ
An Poc ar Buile	Traidisiúnta
Mise Éire	Pádraig Mac Piarais (liricí) Patrick Cassidy (ceol)
An Saol Rúnda	Oisín Mac
Amhrán Chuigéil	John Beag Ó Flatharta
Caidé sin don té sin?	Traidisiúnta
An Seandúine dóite	Traidisiúnta
Ceol an Phóbaire	Traidisiúnta
Déan é	Sruth na Maoile
An Mhaighdean Mhara	Traidisiúnta
Cití na gCumann	Altan
Amhrán na nGael	Méabh Ní Bheaglaoich
Beauty Deas an Oileáin	Seán Ó Duinnshléibhe
Spéirling	Eugene Peelo
Amhrán an Ghaeilgeora Mhóir	Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin
Dochar	Sonny Ní Chathasaigh



Gearrscannáin T1 / Short Films T1				
Teideal / Title	Stiúrthóir/ Director	Scribhneoir / Writer	Léiritheoirí / Comhlacht / Producers / Production Company	Ar fáil ag / Available at
<i>Síle</i> (2013)	Cathal Ó Cuaig	Séamus Moran	Ciarán Ó Cofaigh/ Síol Scéal	https://www.tg4.ie/ga/player/
An Buille (2010)	Marion Ní Loinsigh	Tristan Rosenstock	Deirdre Ní Fhlatharta/ Síol Scéal	https://www.tg4.ie/ga/player/
Fluent Dysphasia (2004)	Daniel O'Hara	Daniel O'Hara	Gráinne O'Carroll/ Dough Productions	https://ifiarchiveplayer.ie/fluent-dysphasia/
An Seabhac (2010)	Trevor Laffey	Paul Mercier	Deirdre Ní Fhlatharta/ Síol Scéil	https://www.tg4.ie/ga/player/baile
<i>Sínte</i> (2014)	Tom Sullivan	Tom Sullivan & Feidlim Cannon	Ciarán Ó Cofaigh/ Síol Scéal	https://www.tg4.ie/ga/player/baile
Fíorghael (2005)	Macdara Vallely	Macdara Vallely	Tamara Anghie/Zanzib ar Films	https://www.tg4.ie/en/player/home/
Cúilín Dualach (2004)	Nora Twomey	Jackie Mac Donncha	Ross Murray, Cartoon Saloon agus Seán Ó Cualáin, Sónta Teo.	tg4.ie/foghlaim https://shorts.screenireland.ie/films?keywords=c%C3%BAil%C3%ADn+dualach



Drámaí T1 / Plays T1				
Teideal / Title	Údar / Scríbhneoir / Author / Writer	Cnuasach / Collection	Foilsitheoir / Publication	Bliain / Year
Coimhlint	Ré Ó Laighléis	Aistear Intinne	Coiscéim	1996
Aisling Aongusa	Brian Ó Baoill	TUB...aiste! agus drámaí eile: Duaisdrámaí an Oireachtais	www.lulu.com	2010
Lá Buí Bealtaine	Máiréad Ní Ghráda	Gearrdhrámaí an Chéid Eag. Pádraig Ó Siadhail	Cló Iar- Chonnacht	2000 2008
An Casán	Séamus de Bhilmot	Gearrdhrámaí an Chéid Eag. Pádraig Ó Siadhail	Cló Iar- Chonnacht	2000 2008
Pionta Amháin Uisce	Johnny Chóil Mhaidhc Ó Coistealbha	An Tincéara Buí agus dréachtaí eile	Sáirséal agus Dill	1962



Appendix 2: Prescribed materials for Junior Cycle Irish T2

List of Prescribed Texts (T2)

(This list of prescribed texts supersedes those listed in circular 0015 / 2023)

Úrscéalta T2 / Novels T2			
Teideal / Title	Údar / Author	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
LabhairAmach.com	Áine Uí Fhoghlú	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
Smuf	Alan Tittley	An Gúm	2012
Sárú	Anna Heussaff	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
Daideo	Áine Ní Ghlinn	Cois Life	2014
Cúpla	Ógie Ó Céilleachair	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2011
Hiúdaí Beag	Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair	Cló Mhaigh Eo	2012
Tóraíocht Taisce	Mícheál Ó Ruairc	Cois Life	2012
An Mactíre Deireannach	Patricia Forde	Futa Fata	2023
Iománaí ón Iasacht	Seán Ua Cearnaigh	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2016
Inis Mara	Tristian Rosenstock	LeabharCOMHAR	2022

Gearrscéalta T2 / Short Stories T2				
Teideal / Title	Údar / Author	Cnuasach / Collection	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
An Cluiche Mór	Ógie Ó Céilleachair	Katfish agus Scéalta Eile	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2017
Spás	Mícheál Ó Ruairc	Na Lucha ag Rince	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2009
M'Asal Beag Dubh	Pádraic Ó Conaire	Pádraic Ó Conaire: Rogha Scéalta (eag. Diarmuid de Faoite)	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2008
Fionn agus an Fathach	Jacqueline de Brún	N/bh	An tÁisaonad	2012
Mar a fuair Cú Chulainn a ainm	Máirtín Mac Grianna	N/bh	An tÁisaonad	2012
Dubh agus Bán	Majella Ní Dhomhnaill	Cuimhní Porcealláin agus Scéalta Eile	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2023
Cor	Ré Ó Laighléis	Bolgchaint agus scéalta eile	Móinín	2004
An Eochair	Jackie Mac Donncha	Bróga Johnny Thomáis	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2012



Filíocht T2 / Poetry T2				
Teideal / Title	File / Poet	Cnuasach / Ar fáil ag / Collection / Available at	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
Stadeolaíocht	Marcus Mac Conghail	Ceol Baile	Cois Life	2014
Jeaic ar Scoil	Dairena Ní Chinnéide	Máthair an Fhiaigh	Cló Iar- Chonnacht	2008
Sámhchodladh	Colm Breathnach	An Fear Marbh	Coiscéim	1998
Aongus	Johnny Chóil Mhaidhc	Buille Faoi Thuairim Gabha	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	1987
Deochadh Dorais	Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh	The Coast Road	Gallery Press	2016
Breith Dáin	Máirtín Ó Direáin	Máirtín Ó Direáin: Na Dánta	An Clóchomhar Tta (Cló Iar- Chonnacht)	2010
Dán do Lara 10	Michael Hartnett	A Necklace of Wrens	Gallery Press	1987
Deireadh Cóisire	Gearóid Mac Lochlainn	Na Scéalaithe	Coiscéim	1999
Ceithre Ráithe na Bliana	Pádraig Mac Suibhne	Solas Uaigneach	An Sagart	1992
Obair Bhaile	Áine Ní Ghlinn	Bronntanais agus Féiríní Eile	Cló Mhaigh Eo	2010
An Blascaod Mór Anois	Máire Áine Nic Gearailt	An Inis	Coiscéim	2010
Cathair Rúnda	Caitríona Ní Chléirchín	Crithloinnir	Coiscéim	2010



Amhráin T2 / Songs T2	
Teideal / Title	Údar / Scríbhneoir / Author / Writer
Bí Ann/Leanfaidh mé	Kila
Fún orm	IMLÉ
An Poc ar Buile	Traidisiúnta
Mise Éire	Pádraig Mac Piarais (liricí) Patrick Cassidy (ceol)
An Saol Rúnda	Oisín Mac
Amhrán an Ghaeilgeora Mhóir	Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin
An Mhaighdean Mhara	Traidisiúnta
Ag Críost an Síol	Seán Ó Riada (ceol)
Déan é	Sruth na Maoile
Siar go Conamara	Aerach
An Cailín Álainn	Sibéal Ní Chasaide
Ar ais go Gaoth Dobhair	Emma Ní Fhíoruisce
Dochar	Sonny Ní Chathasaigh
Dúlaman	Clannad
Go Beo, Go Deor na nDeor	Enda Reilly/Séamas Barra Ó Súilleabháin



Gearrscannáin T2 / Short Films T2				
Teideal / Title	Stiúrthóir / Director	Scríbhneoir / Writer	Léiritheoirí / Comhlacht / Producers / Company	Ar fáil ag Available at
An Teanga Rúnda (2005)	Brian Durnin	Brian Durnin	Macdaragh Kelleher, Fastnet Films	https://foghlaim.tg4.ie/tsraith_shois_earach/gearrscannain
An tÁdh (2014)	Colm Bairéad	Medb Johnstone	Deirdre Ní Fhlaithearta, ROSG	https://foghlaim.tg4.ie/tsraith_shois_earach/gearrscannain
El Toro (2012)	Tomás Seoighe	Tomás Seoighe	David Clarke	El Zorrero Films
Fluent Dysphasia (2004)	Daniel O'Hara	Daniel O'Hara	Gráinne O'Carroll/ Dough Productions	https://ifearchiveplayer.ie/fluent-dysphasia/
Cúilín Dualach (2004)	Nora Twomey	Jackie Mac Donncha	Ross Murray, Cartoon Saloon agus Seán Ó Cualáin, Sónta Teo.	tg4.ie/foghlaim https://shorts.screenireland.ie/films
Síle (2013)	Cathal Ó Cuaig	Séamus Moran	Ciarán Ó Cofaigh/ Síol Scéal	https://www.tg4.ie/ga/player/baile/

Drámaí T2 / Plays T2				
Teideal / Title	Údar / Author	Cnuasach / Collection	Foilsitheoir / Publisher	Bliain / Year
Gan Choinne	Ré Ó Laighléis	Aistear Intinne	Coiscéim	1996
Gleann Álainn	Brian Ó Baoill	Bózó agus drámaí eile	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2003
Na Deoraithe	Celia de Fréine	Blúiríní	COGG	2015
Cumhacht na Cuimhne	Seosamh Mac Gabhann	Cumhacht na Cuimhne agus Drámaí Eile	Cló Iar-Chonnacht	2000