



**Circular Number: 0041/2026**

**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 Irish Examination in June 2027 and June 2028**

The Department of Education and Youth wishes to inform the management authorities of post-primary schools that this circular sets out the prescribed material for Leaving Certificate Irish examination in June 2027 and June 2028.

The attached list of prescribed materials is the same as those prescribed in circular 0070/2024 and circular 0071/2025 for the Leaving Certificate Irish examination in June 2027 and June 2028. Circular S76/25, issued by the State Examinations Commission, should be read in conjunction with this circular.

The department requests school authorities to bring this circular to the attention of all teachers of Irish.

The department reminds schools that any use of these texts in Transition Year should be in accordance with the Transition Year Programme Statement (2024).

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 [gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie).

Enquiries regarding this circular should be emailed to [CAP@education.gov.ie](mailto:CAP@education.gov.ie)



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## Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate Irish Examination in 2028

As the syllabus indicates, students are required to study:

### 1. PROSE: Ordinary level and Higher level

#### 1(a) Common prescribed prose OR 1(b) Prose: optional material

##### 1(a) Common Prescribed Prose

The following are the prescribed prose texts for **Ordinary level and Higher Level**.

Attention is drawn to the choice available to candidates at (ii) below i.e. an extract from a travel diary or short story [in full] and at (v) below i.e. a short film or play.

- (i) **Clann Lir**: Séamus Ó Searcaigh  
*Laochas* – Séamus Ó Searcaigh (An Gúm, 2009) [Lgh. 30-37].
  
- (ii) **Athair**: Mícheál Ó Conghaile  
*An Fear a Phléasc* – Mícheál Ó Conghaile (Coiscéim, 1997) [Lgh. 92-105].  
  
nó  
  
**Glantóir**: Seán Ó Muireagáin  
*Gáire in Éag* – Seán Ó Muireagáin (Éabhlóid, 2018) [Lgh. 11-20].  
  
nó  
  
**An Bóthar go Santiago**: Mícheál de Barra  
*An Bóthar go Santiago* – Mícheál de Barra (Cois Life, 2007) [Lgh. 6-26].
  
- (iii) **Cuairteoir**: Orna Ní Choileáin  
*Sciorrann an tAm* – Orna Ní Choileáin (Cois Life, 2014) [Lgh. 59-68].
  
- (iv) **An tlriseoir**: Michelle Nic Pháidín  
*An tlriseoir* – Michelle Nic Pháidín (Cois Life, 2016) [Lgh. 1-18].
  
- (v) **Eoinín na nÉan** ar fáil ar Sheinnteoir TG4. (ROSG films, 2013)



nó

***An Féileacán agus an Crann Úll***: Mícheál Mac Cárthaigh  
*An Féileacán agus an Crann Úll* – Mícheál Mac Cárthaigh (Cló Iar-Chonnacht, 2001) [Lgh. 7-35].

OR

**1(b) Prose: Optional material – Ordinary level and Higher level**

It is essential that the criteria below regarding the selection of relevant content and texts are adhered to. When selecting suitable prose texts the following criteria should be taken into account:

**(i) Types**

Five extracts of prose with one corresponding to each of the types (i) to (v) below:

- (i) Folklore extract
- (ii) Short story
- (iii) An extract from a novel
- (iv) An extract from an autobiography
- (v) Drama [or an extract of a drama]

**or**

Irish Film

**(ii) The length, level and quality of the language in the material chosen**

The common prescribed prose should be used as a guide for the material to be selected, in terms of the length [volume], type, level and quality of the language.

Subject to the criteria set out here, prose which was previously prescribed for the Leaving Certificate Irish course may be selected for the optional course.

**(iii) Themes**

It is important to consider the following criteria for selecting themes in the extracts:



- the content itself is interesting and relevant to the range of student experiences
- the themes are related to the topics and language functions of the syllabus
- a mixture of serious and light-hearted material
- gender balance in selecting authors

**(iv) Material that is not admissible**

- Candidates may not use any piece of prose currently prescribed under 1(a) under 'Common Prescribed Prose' to answer an examination question on the optional course.
- Candidates will not be permitted to use translations
- All texts must be original Irish (language) texts
- All texts must be published
- All texts must be publicly available and easily accessible to anyone that wants to access them
- No extracts will be admitted from *Díolaim Próis na Meánteistiméireachta*.
- Texts currently or previously prescribed / recommended for Junior Cycle Irish are not admissible.
- Irish language texts prescribed / recommended for any other Leaving Certificate course of study, for example, Drama, Film and Theatre Studies, are not admissible.

**2. POETRY: Ordinary level and Higher level**

**2(a) Common prescribed poetry OR 2(b) Poetry: optional material**

**2(a) Common Prescribed Poetry**

The following are the prescribed poems for **Ordinary level and Higher Level**.



- (i) **Dínit an Bhróin:** Máirtín Ó Direáin  
*Na Dánta – Máirtín Ó Direáin* (An Clóchomhar Tta, 2010).
- (ii) **Deireadh na Feide:** Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh  
*The Coast Road – Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh* (Gallery Press, 2016).
- (iii) **Iníon:** Áine Durkin  
*Mise Áine - An Bhean Istigh – Áine Durkin.* (Cló Iar-Chonnacht, 2017).
- (iv) **Glaoch Abhaile:** Áine Ní Ghlinn  
*Unshed tears – Deora Nár Caoineadh – Áine Ní Ghlinn.* (Dedalus, 1996).
- (v) **Úirchill an Chreagáin:** Airt Mac Cumhaidh  
*Duanaire na hArdteistiméireachta.*

**OR**

**2 (b) Poetry: Optional material**

It is essential that the criteria below regarding the selection of relevant content and texts are adhered to. When selecting suitable poems the following criteria should be taken into account:

- (i) **Types**  
At least five poems are to be studied. Of the five poems, at least one must have been composed before 1850.
- (ii) **The length, level and quality of the language in the material chosen**

The common prescribed poems should be used as a guide for the material to be selected, in terms of the length [volume], type, level and quality of the language.

Subject to the criteria set out here, poetry which was previously prescribed for the Leaving Certificate Irish course may be selected for the optional course.

- (iii) **Themes**  
It is important to consider the following criteria when selecting themes for poems:



- the content itself is interesting and relevant to the range of student experiences
- the themes are related to the topics and language functions of the syllabus
- a mixture of serious and light-hearted material
- gender balance in selecting poets
- music and lyricism should be considered

**(v) Material that is not admissible**

- Candidates may not use any piece of prose prescribed under 2(b) under 'Common Prescribed Poetry to answer an examination question on the optional course.
- Candidates will not be permitted to use translations
- All texts must be original Irish (language) texts
- All texts must be published
- All texts must be publicly available and easily accessible to anyone that wants to access them
- Extracts from *Duanaire na Meánteistiméireachta* **are not admissible**, with one exception.
  - Given *An Spailpín Fánach* was previously prescribed for Leaving Certificate Irish, the verses of that poem from *Duanaire na Meánteistiméireachta* which were previously prescribed **are admissible** to study as part of the Optional Material.
- Texts currently or previously prescribed /recommended for Junior Cycle Irish are not admissible.
- Irish language texts currently prescribed / recommended for any other Leaving Certificate course of study, for example, Drama, Film and Theatre Studies, are not admissible.

**3. Additional Literature: Higher level only**

One item from either 3(a) (Additional prose) or 3(b) (Additional poetry) below must be studied.



It is intended that students at this level will study either their choice of additional prose or additional poetry, or both if that is their choice. Only one section will be answered in the examination. The following additional prose and additional poetry are recommended for Higher level.

- a. **Additional Prose: Prós Breise:** One of the pieces below (i) – (v) is prescribed:
- (i) **Cóirín na dTonn:** Celia de Fréine  
*Mná Dána: Dornán Drámaí* – Celia de Fréine (Arlen House, 2009) [Lgh. 73-156].
  - (ii) **An Nollaig Thiar:** Breandán Ó hEithir (Cló Iar-Chonnacht, 2016) [go huile].
  - (iii) **Deirdre:** Darach Ó Scolaí (Leabhar Breac, 2023) [go huile].
  - (iv) **Dordán:** Éilís Ní Dhuibhne (Cois Life, 2011) [Lgh. 1-79].
  - (v) **Bláth na dTulach:** curtha in eagar ag Réaltán Ní Leannáin (Cló Iar-Chonnacht, 2021)  
(cúig ghearrscéal ainmnithe as an gcnuasach)
    - *Ón Spéir Anuas* – Danny Brown [Lgh. 67-72]
    - *Bréaga* – Iarla Mac Aodha Bhuí [Lgh. 129-138]
    - *Cóco* – Máire Zepf [Lgh. 167-180]
    - *Maeirí* – Réaltán Ní Leannán [Lgh. 221-234]
    - *Oileánach* – Sam Ó Fearraigh [Lgh. 259-270]

## NÓ

- b. **Additional Poetry:** All five of the poems below (i) – (v) are prescribed:
- (i) **Trén bhFearann Breac:** Colm Breathnach  
*Tírdhreacha* – Colm Breathnach. (Leabhair COMHAR, 2015).
  - (ii) **Eanáir 1991:** Bidy Jenkinson  
*Leabhar na hAthghabhála*. Curtha in eagar ag Louis de Paor. (Bloodaxe Books, 2016).
  - (iii) **Ag Tiomáint Siar:** Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill  
*Pharaoh's Daughter* – Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill. (Gallery Press, 1990).



- (iv) **Dijeridiú:** Louis de Paor  
*Leabhar na hAthghabhála*. Curtha in eagar ag Louis de Paor.  
(Bloodaxe Books, 2016).
- (v) **Anthony Daly:** Antaine Raiftearaí  
*Raiftearaí: Amhráin agus Dánta* - Ciarán Ó Coigligh. (An Clóchomhar Tta, 1987).

#### 4. HISTORY OF IRISH LITERATURE: HIGHER LEVEL

The Council has recommended that there should no longer be a separate question on the 'History of Irish' at higher level as there was previously. However, as part of the course of study of literature, consideration should be given to the place of the works studied in the context of the history of Irish literature. In the assessment at higher level, short questions may be asked on this aspect. Information about the author, background and context may be asked for.

Details on the assessment for the Leaving Certificate Irish Examination (Higher, Ordinary and Foundation levels) from 2012 onwards is available on the State Examinations Commission website

(<https://www.examinations.ie/?l=ir&mc=se&sc=sh>). This information is found in:

- **S90/10 The Irish Examination in the Leaving Certificate for 2012 onwards (Higher Level, Ordinary Level and Foundation Level) and**
- **S76/25 The Leaving Certificate Irish Common Oral Examination in 2027 and in 2028**