



Circular Number: 0061/2025

**To the Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teaching Staff of Post Primary Schools, Special Schools and the Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards (ETBs).**

**Senior Cycle Redevelopment – 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 and Youth wishes to inform the management authorities of second-level schools that the prescribed materials for Drama, Film and Theatre Studies have been updated. This Circular **replaces** Circular 002/2025.

The **attached lists 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.

**Neville Kenny, Principal Officer  
Senior Cycle Redevelopment Programme Management Office,  
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit  
August 2025**

## 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 Fíbín sa Taibhdhearc of *Tóraíocht* (playwright: Philip Doherty; director: Mikel Murfi).

or

#### OPTION B

**Form:** Verbatim Theatre

Explore this form and its effective realisation in theatrical productions

**Designated performance of set play:** The 2013 performance by the National Theatre, London of *Home* (playwright & director: Nadia Fall)

or

#### OPTION C

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

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