

**Amendment to GCE AS and A level English Literature,  
Prescribed texts – *Poems of the Decade*  
First assessment summer 2018**

January 2017

**Dear Colleagues**

We have been listening to your feedback during first teaching of the AS and A level in English Literature and as part of a continuous self-review we have revised the prescribed list of poems to be taught from *Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry, 2002-2011*.

In order to support the in-depth study of the prescribed poems and the application of analytical vigour when discussing these poems in the examination, we have removed the following eight poems from the prescribed list:

Eavan Boland	<i>Inheritance</i>
Sue Boyle	<i>A Leisure Centre is also a Temple of Learning</i>
Ciaran Carson	<i>The War Correspondent</i>
Carol Ann Duffy	<i>The Map Woman</i>
Robert Minhinnick	<i>The Fox in the National Museum of Wales</i>
Sean O'Brien	<i>Fantasia on a Theme of James Wright</i>
Ruth Padel	<i>You, Shiva, and my Mum</i>
George Szirtes	<i>Song</i>

The 'Post-2000 Specified Poetry' table in *Appendix 5: Prescribed texts* in the A level English Literature specification (*Appendix 4* in the AS level English Literature specification) has been amended and is attached for your convenience. The amended specifications are also available online.

This change will affect **first AS and A level assessment in summer 2018**.

Therefore, any students who started their A level course in September 2016 or will be starting their AS course in September 2017 will be assessed on the revised prescribed list of twenty poems.

Any students who started an A level course in September 2015 or an AS level course in September 2016 and will be sitting their **examination in summer 2017**, will be assessed on the **current list of twenty-eight poems**.

	Assessment date	Current or Revised prescribed list
<b>A level</b> started Sept 2015	Summer 2017	Current list
<b>AS level</b> started Sept 2016	Summer 2017	Current list
<b>A level</b> started Sept 2016	Summer 2018	Revised list
<b>AS level</b> started Sept 2017	Summer 2018	Revised list
<b>A level</b> started Sept 2017	Summer 2019	Revised list

The senior examining team and subject experts were consulted regarding the selection of poems to retain. Also, in order to reduce the impact of this change on the resources available to teachers and students, we have retained all poems that have appeared on the sample assessment materials, specimen papers, and the 2016 AS examinations.

We believe that the remaining twenty poems provide ample opportunity for students to read a range of poetic forms on diverse topics, representative of poetry in the twenty-first century.

We understand that centres who started A level courses in September 2016 may already be teaching the current list of poems, including poems that will no longer be prescribed for examination in summer 2018. Unfortunately, this is unavoidable when making amendments to live specifications. However, we hope you will agree that the decision is a positive one for students. The teaching of any poems that will no longer be assessed from summer 2018 will still have been suitable preparation for developing students' ability to analyse twenty-first century poetry. When these students begin preparing for the examination in summer 2018, they should be reminded that the list has been revised down to twenty poems.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact our English Subject Advisor, Clare Haviland, at [teachingenglish@pearson.com](mailto:teachingenglish@pearson.com).

Yours faithfully,



Eva McManamon  
GCE English Product Manager, Pearson

Att.

### Post-2000 Specified Poetry

***Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry  
2002–2011 (Faber and Faber, 2015)  
ISBN 978-0571325405***

Poem title	Poet	Page number
Eat Me	Patience Agbabi	3
Chainsaw Versus the Pampas Grass	Simon Armitage	6
Material	Ros Barber	10
History	John Burnside	25
An Easy Passage	Julia Copus	37
The Deliverer	Tishani Doshi	43
The Lammas Hireling	Ian Duhig	51
To My Nine-Year-Old Self	Helen Dunmore	52
A Minor Role	U A Fanthorpe	57
The Gun	Vicki Feaver	62
The Furthest Distances I've Travelled	Leontia Flynn	64
Giuseppe	Roderick Ford	66
Out of the Bag	Seamus Heaney	81
Effects	Alan Jenkins	92
Genetics	Sinéad Morrissey	125
From the Journal of a Disappointed Man	Andrew Motion	127
Look We Have Coming to Dover!	Daljit Nagra	129
Please Hold	Ciaran O'Driscoll	132
On Her Blindness	Adam Thorpe	170
Ode on a Grayson Perry Urn	Tim Turnbull	172

NB: other editions may use different page numbers