

Prescribed texts nominated by schools in 2025

Literature

The QCAA developed the prescribed text lists for the English, English as an Additional Language (EAL), and Literature General senior syllabuses to ensure students and schools had access to a rich resource of texts suitable for study at senior secondary level and included texts that reflected the diversity of school contexts, cultural and religious sensitivities, and the range of student cohorts.

The [criteria and guidelines](#) for the text selection are available in the Prescribed text lists in the English senior syllabus webpages on the QCAA website.

The following tables set out the number of schools that selected each prescribed text for EAL in 2025. The data was extracted from the registration of choices by schools in the Prescribed Lists application in the QCAA Portal.

Note: Some schools offer multiple texts for one piece of assessment or within one unit.

Key: ^ indicates where fewer than five schools selected the text.

External assessment texts

Text	Number of schools
<i>Catch-22</i> — Joseph Heller	5
<i>In Cold Blood</i> — Truman Capote	47
<i>King Lear</i> — William Shakespeare	61
<i>Stasiland</i> - Anna Funder	5
<i>Terra Nullius</i> — Claire G Coleman	6
<i>Hamlet</i> — William Shakespeare	84
<i>Beloved</i> – Toni Morrison	5
<i>Wuthering Heights</i> — Emily Brontë	22

Internal assessment

Novels and prose texts

Text	Number of schools
<i>Anna Karenina</i> — Leo Tolstoy	^
<i>Art Objects</i> (collection of essays) — Jeanette Winterson	^
<i>Bleak House</i> — Charles Dickens	8
<i>Carpentaria</i> — Alexis Wright	^
Collections of essays by John Gardner	^
<i>Foreign Soil</i> — Maxine Beneba Clarke	9
<i>Hamlet</i> — William Shakespeare	^
<i>Heart of Darkness</i> — Joseph Conrad	23
<i>In Cold Blood</i> — Truman Capote	5
<i>King Lear</i> — William Shakespeare	7
<i>Life After Life</i> — Kate Atkinson	8
<i>Like a House on Fire</i> — short stories by Cate Kennedy	14
<i>Only the Animals</i> (linked collection of short stories) — Ceridwen Dovey	30
<i>Persuasion</i> — Jane Austen	10
Short stories by Amy Witting	16
Short stories by Annie Proulx	28
Short stories by Edgar Allan Poe	39
Short stories by George Saunders	15
Short stories by Ursula K Le Guin	38
<i>Snow Falling on Cedars</i> — David Guterson	^
<i>Stasiland</i> - Anna Funder	^
<i>Swallow the Air</i> — Tara June Winch	^
<i>Terra Nullius</i> - Claire G Coleman	^
<i>The Complete Maus</i> (graphic novel — two volumes) — Art Spiegelman	24
<i>The Deadman Dance</i> — Kim Scott	^
<i>The Good People</i> — Hannah Kent	13
<i>The Labyrinth</i> — Amanda Lohrey	^
<i>The Man in the High Castle</i> — Philip K Dick	^
<i>The Meursault Investigation</i> — Kamel Daoud	^

Text	Number of schools
<i>The Penelopiad: The Myth of Penelope and Odysseus</i> — Margaret Atwood	5
<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> — Oscar Wilde	41
<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i> — Barbara Kingsolver	8
<i>The Quiet American</i> — Graham Greene	7
<i>The Remains of the Day</i> — Kazuo Ishiguro	6
<i>The Sound of Things Falling</i> — Juan Gabriel Vásquez	^
<i>The Tempest</i> — William Shakespeare	15
<i>The White Tiger</i> — Aravind Adiga	13
<i>Things Fall Apart</i> — Chinua Achebe	25
<i>Wuthering Heights</i> — Emily Brontë	7

Internal assessment

Plays and drama texts

Text	Number of schools
<i>A Doll's House</i> — Henrik Ibsen	15
<i>A Man for All Seasons</i> — Robert Bolt	10
<i>A Taste of Honey</i> — Shelagh Delaney	^
<i>Black is the New White</i> — Nakkiah Lui	^
<i>Black Medea</i> — Wesley Enoch	16
<i>By the Bog of Cats</i> — Marina Carr	^
<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> — Tennessee Williams	5
<i>City of Gold</i> — Meyne Watt	^
<i>Constellations</i> — Nick Payne	^
<i>Death and the Maiden</i> — Ariel Dorfman	^
<i>Hotel Sorrento</i> — Hannie Rayson	^
<i>Photograph 51</i> — Anna Ziegler	^
<i>Rainbow's End</i> — Jane Harrison	6
<i>Shafana and Aunt Sarrinah</i> — Alana Valentine	^
<i>Terror</i> — Ferdinand von Schirach	10
<i>The Real Thing</i> — Tom Stoppard	^
<i>The Winter's Tale</i> — William Shakespeare	^
<i>Uncle Vanya</i> — Anton Chekhov	^
<i>Wit</i> — Margaret Edson	^

Internal Assessment

Film and television/multimodal texts

Text (title followed by director/creator)	Number of schools
<i>Alias Grace</i> — Mary Harron	^
<i>Arrival</i> — Denis Villeneuve	12
<i>Beneath Clouds</i> — Ivan Sen	8
<i>Elementary</i> (TV series) — Robert Doherty	6
<i>Gattaca</i> — Andrew Niccol	22
<i>Glitch</i> (TV series) — Emma Freeman	10
<i>Hugo</i> — Martin Scorsese	^
<i>Interstellar</i> — Christopher Nolan	9
<i>Knives Out</i> — Rian Johnson	11
<i>Mad Max: Fury Road</i> — George Miller	10
<i>Pan's Labyrinth</i> — Guillermo del Toro	7
<i>Parasite</i> — Bong Joon-ho	22
<i>Picnic at Hanging Rock</i> — Peter Weir	17
<i>Radiance</i> — Rachel Perkins	7
<i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> — Zhang Yimou	7
<i>Rebecca</i> — Alfred Hitchcock	8
<i>Run Lola Run</i> — Tom Tykwer	12
<i>Sweet Country</i> — Warwick Thornton	27
<i>Ten Canoes</i> — Rolf de Heer and Peter Djigirr	^
<i>The Gods of Wheat Street</i> (TV series) — Wayne Blair, Catriona McKenzie and Adrian Russell Wills	^
<i>True Grit</i> — Ethan Coen and Joel Coen	9
<i>Wadjda</i> — Haifaa al-Mansour	13
<i>World War Z</i> — Marc Forster	^

Internal Assessment

Poetry

Poet	Number of schools
Alison Whittaker	20
Christina Rossetti	47
Elizabeth Barrett Browning	40
Ellen van Neerven	50
Gerard Manley Hopkins	13
Gwen Harwood	63
James McAuley	20
Kae Tempest	41
Les Murray	51
Lionel Fogarty	35
Maya Angelou	83
Pablo Neruda	35
Rosemary Dobson	30
Seamus Heaney	24
TS Eliot	49
WH Auden	43

More information

If you would like more information, please email EnglishandLanguages@qcaa.qld.edu.au



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