

Meeting of the English Development Group  
23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 – the seventh meeting of the group.

**Agenda:**  
Update on the consultation on the draft specification

**Discussion:**  
The group considered the different elements of the consultation – the online surveys, written submissions, meetings with partner organisations, focus group meetings. Even at this early stage there has been a very good level of response to the online surveys.  
Initial indications from the surveys are that:

- The Rationale and Aim are clear
- The learning outcomes are appropriate and clear
- Teachers would like more information/support on planning a course of study included in the Overview section
- There is a significant welcome for the increased emphasis on oral language in the specification
- Respondents to the consultation see the new assessment approaches as a positive opportunity or an area of particular concern, or, at times, a mixture of both
- There is a broad welcome for the proposed school-based assessment tasks (their number and design) although there is some disappointment about the format of the Oral Presentation
- There is support for a text list that preserves an element of choice for teacher and student
- Teachers would like to see significant and sustained support (CPD) especially in the area of assessment and moderation

Prescription of texts

The development group considered the following set of draft criteria for the selection of texts and development of a text list:

**Criteria for selecting lists of indicative texts for Junior Cycle English (2014 – 2017)**

**The lists should attend to the following considerations:**

1. A comprehensive list of (oral and written) non-fiction text types (e.g. feature article, talk, speech, report, web page, biography, documentary, investigation, web based material etc.)
2. Twenty modern texts from a variety of fiction genre (e.g. literary, fantasy, science fiction, adventure etc.)
3. Seven classical fiction/drama texts (including plays by Shakespeare)
4. Up to seven modern drama texts
5. Fourteen poets
6. Seven films
7. Irish authored texts
8. Texts recommended by teachers and parents
9. General gender equity

	<p>10. Some texts to be of a challenging nature  11. Accessibility (specifically for students pursuing ordinary level)  12. A number of texts to be chosen and indicated as appropriate for first year students</p> <p>It was agreed that work on drafting an initial list would commence during the summer. It was felt that the online facility that invites teachers, parents, students, and others to suggest texts for inclusion on the list would inform the finalising of the list in a very significant way. The online suggestion box for texts can be accessed here:  <a href="http://www.juniorcycle.ie/Curriculum/Subjects/English-%281%29/English-%281%29.aspx">http://www.juniorcycle.ie/Curriculum/Subjects/English-%281%29/English-%281%29.aspx</a></p>
<p>Illustrative material re planning and teaching</p>	<p>It was agreed that the inclusion of some material in support of teacher planning would be of value. While it would not form part of the specification it could usefully support particular aspects of curriculum and assessment. Further work would be done with teachers over the summer to generate materials.</p>
<p><b>Next meeting:</b>  The next meeting of the development group will be held on <b>17<sup>th</sup> September 2013.</b></p>	