

Scottish texts for National 5 and Higher English courses

The publication of the refreshed list (January 2017) follows a period of consultation with teachers, lecturers and other relevant bodies.

The list will be reviewed and refreshed every three years to ensure it remains relevant and allows new texts to be introduced. Teachers and lecturers will still have freedom in selecting texts for the critical essay section, which means a wide range of literature will be studied at both National 5 and Higher English, including Shakespeare and other classic works.

The refreshed list will become live in session 2018–19. This means that the first question paper containing content from the new list will be in May 2019.

National 5 English	Higher English
Drama	
Bold Girls by Rona Munro	The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil by John McGrath
Sailmaker by Alan Spence	Men Should Weep by Ena Lamont Stewart
Tally's Blood by Ann Marie di Mambro	The Slab Boys by John Byrne
Prose	
Short stories by Iain Crichton Smith The Red Door, The Telegram, Mother and Son, Home	Short stories by lain Crichton Smith The Red Door, The Telegram, Mother and Son, Home
The Cone Gatherers by Robin Jenkins	The Cone Gatherers by Robin Jenkins
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson	Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson
Short Stories by Anne Donovan All that Glisters, Away in a Manger, Dear Santa, Hieroglyphics	Short Stories by George Mackay Brown A Time to Keep, The Wireless Set, The Eye of the Hurricane, Andrina
The Testament of Gideon Mack by James Robertson	Sunset Song by Lewis Grassic Gibbon

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National 5 English	Higher English
Poetry	
Carol Ann Duffy	Carol Ann Duffy
War Photographer, Valentine, Originally,	War Photographer, Valentine, Originally,
Mrs Midas, In Mrs Tilscher's Class,	Mrs Midas, In Mrs Tilscher's Class,
The Way My Mother Speaks	The Way My Mother Speaks
Norman MacCaig	Norman MacCaig
Assisi, Visiting hour, Aunt Julia, Basking shark,	Assisi, Visiting hour, Aunt Julia, Basking shark,
Hotel room, 12 th floor, Brooklyn cop	Hotel room, 12 th floor, Brooklyn cop
Edwin Morgan	Sorley MacLean
In the Snack-bar, Trio, Good Friday, Winter,	Hallaig, Shores, An Autumn Day,
Glasgow 5 March 1971, Glasgow Sonnet i	I gave you immortality, Kinloch Ainort,
	Girl of the red-gold hair
Jackie Kay	Don Paterson
My Grandmother's Houses, Lucozade,	Waking with Russell, 11:00: Baldovan,
Gap Year, Keeping Orchids, Old Tongue,	The Ferryman's Arms, Nil Nil, Rain, The Circle
Whilst Leila Sleeps	Liz Lochhead
	The Bargain, My Rival's House,
	View of Scotland/Love Poem, Last Supper,
	Revelation, Box Room
	Robert Burns
	Holy Willie's Prayer, Tam O'Shanter,
	To A Mouse, A Poet's Welcome to his Love- Begotten Daughter, To a Louse,
	A Red. Red Rose

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