# AI AND LEAVING CERT POETRY

## A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO USE IN THE CLASSROOM.

# Step 1: Prompt Engineering

Regardless of the AI you choose to use; Chatgpt, Google Gemini, Microsoft Edge Copilot etc. you need to become adept at ***prompt engineering.*** This essentially means the precise instructions you give the AI to get the desired output.

Once you as a teacher have mastered prompt engineering it should be taught to students also, so they too can use AI as an effective learning tool.

# Prompt Engineering

While GenAI might help teachers and researchers generate useful text and other outputs to support their work, it is not necessarily a straightforward process. It can take multiple iterations of a prompt before the desired output is achieved.

# USE THE ACRONYM 'PREPARE' TO HELP YOU PROMPT

P – Prompt

R – Role

E – Explicit

P – Parameters

A – Ask

R – Rate

E – Emotion

# PREPARE

| | |
|---|---|
| **Prompt** | Start with a clear question. Provide a stage for what follows. |
| **Role** | Give it a role to help build context for the AI |
| **Explicit** | Be clear and specific about what you want it to do or what information you're looking for. |
| **Parameters** | Define the scope and boundaries of the answer e.g. tone of voice, format of output, reading age |

# PREPARE

| | |
|---|---|
| **Ask** | Ask the AI to provide clarification questions that may improve its response |
| **Rate** | Ask the AI to rate its own output and to give evidence for this rating. |
| **Emotion** | Appeal to its emotional side |

# Sample Class Activity - using AI to refine Poetry Essay Introduction writing skills.

- Students write their own introduction to a poetry essay for a poet on the course.

- Copy the format of the sample prompt on the next slide to a Generative AI of their choice (students may also work in pairs, using two different AI's; for example, copilot and Google Gemini, to see which produces the better paragraph).

- Compare the Generative AI output to their own and use the following questions as a guide:

- - What are the differences?

- - What are the similarities?

- - How can I improve my language?

- - How can I focus more on the question?

# Sample Prompt

- Write an introduction to the following Leaving Certificate Poetry Essay:

- "Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin tells fascinating stories, often examining themes that are relevant to contemporary Ireland, in a style that is both beautiful and mysterious." To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your answer with reference to the poetry of Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin on your course. (2018)

- You are H1 student and I want a H1 standard answer. Include the poems; 'Death and Engines', 'The Bend in the Road', 'Fireman's Lift' and 'Translations'.

- Afterwards provide clarification questions that you may improve your response. Rate your output and give evidence for this rating.

- Thank you so much for your hard work!

# Sample Output - Copilot

- Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin's poetry is a tapestry of narratives that weave through the fabric of contemporary Ireland, reflecting its rich history and evolving identity. Her work, characterized by an ethereal beauty and an enigmatic style, invites readers to delve into stories that are as captivating as they are insightful. In poems like 'Death and Engines,' she explores the juxtaposition of the mundane with the profound, revealing the universal truths that lie within everyday experiences. 'The Bend in the Road' offers a meditation on the journey of life, with its unexpected twists and the promise of discovery. 'Fireman's Lift' carries the weight of history, examining the personal within the collective memory, while 'Translations' is a poignant commentary on the cultural shifts and the continuity of heritage. Together, these poems present a compelling argument that Ní Chuilleanáin not only tells fascinating stories but also examines themes deeply relevant to contemporary Ireland, all the while maintaining a lyrical quality that is both beautiful and mysterious. This essay will argue in favor of this statement, providing a close analysis of the selected poems to illustrate the enduring relevance and artistic mastery of Ní Chuilleanáin's work.

# Copilot - Clarification and Rating.

- As for the clarification questions to improve the response, one might consider:

- - How does Ní Chuilleanáin's use of language contribute to the mysterious quality of her poetry?

- - In what ways do the selected poems reflect the themes of change and continuity within Irish culture?

- - What literary devices does Ní Chuilleanáin employ to intertwine the personal with the historical in her poetry?


- Rating the output as H1 standard would be justified by the comprehensive introduction that sets the stage for a detailed analysis, the inclusion of specific poems as required, and the engagement with the thematic content of Ní Chuilleanáin's work, all indicative of a high-level response. The introduction provides a clear thesis and outlines the poems to be discussed, demonstrating an understanding of the essay prompt and the poetry itself.

# Sample Output - Google Gemini

- Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin's poetry occupies a unique space in the Irish literary landscape. This statement suggests that her work intertwines captivating narratives with a critical examination of contemporary Irish society, all delivered in a language that is both aesthetically pleasing and enigmatic. This essay will explore the validity of this claim by delving into four of her poems: "Death and Engines," "The Bend in the Road," "Fireman's Lift," and "Translations." Through these poems, we will see how Ní Chuilleanáin utilizes storytelling to not only engage the reader, but also to offer nuanced commentary on the complexities of Irish life.

# Gemini -Clarification Questions for Further Exploration

- To what specific aspects of contemporary Ireland do the poems you've chosen allude?

- How does Ní Chuilleanáin's use of imagery and metaphor contribute to the beauty and mystery of her poems?

- Does the focus on narrative necessarily diminish the social commentary in her work, or can they coexist?

- By addressing these questions in your analysis, you can demonstrate a deeper understanding of Ní Chuilleanáin's craft and ultimately achieve a strong H1 standard.

- **Rating: Strong Introduction (B+ to A- Range).** This introduction effectively introduces the central theme and sets the stage for your analysis. Here's why it's strong:

- **Clear Thesis Statement:** It clearly states whether you agree or disagree with the original statement (you will explore the validity).

- **Strong Vocabulary:** Words like "intertwines," "critical examination," and "nuanced commentary" showcase a sophisticated vocabulary.

- **Specificity:** It mentions four specific poems, demonstrating a focused approach.

- **Intriguing Questions:** The clarification questions prompt further analysis, leading to a well-rounded discussion.

# Gemini – Areas for Improvement:

- **Strengthening the Hook:** Consider opening with a captivating line or image related to Ní Chuilleanáin's work to grab the reader's attention.

- **Examples:** Briefly mention a specific example from each poem you'll analyze. This will further showcase your knowledge and foreshadow the analysis to come.

- By incorporating these suggestions, you can elevate your introduction to a clear H1 standard.

# Sample Output - Chatgpt

- Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, one of Ireland's most distinguished contemporary poets, weaves intricate and captivating narratives through her poetry, offering readers a window into themes that resonate deeply with modern Irish society. Her works are a rich tapestry of historical reflection, personal memory, and the often enigmatic interplay between past and present. The assertion that Ní Chuilleanáin's poetry is both fascinating in its storytelling and relevant to contemporary Ireland, while being couched in a beautiful and mysterious style, is well-founded. This essay will explore how her poems 'Death and Engines', 'The Bend in the Road', 'Fireman's Lift', and 'Translations' encapsulate these qualities, illustrating the profound and multifaceted nature of her literary craftsmanship.

# Chatgpt - Clarification Questions

1. **Do I clearly understand the key themes in each poem?**
   Understanding the central themes will help in analyzing how they relate to contemporary Ireland.

2. **How does Ní Chuilleanáin's use of language contribute to the beauty and mystery of her poetry?**
   Identifying specific linguistic techniques will enhance the analysis of her style.

3. **What historical or cultural references within the poems are pertinent to contemporary Irish society?**
   This will help in connecting the poems' themes to modern-day Ireland.

4. **Are there personal anecdotes or societal issues reflected in these poems that highlight their relevance?**
   Drawing connections to real-life scenarios can strengthen the argument.

5. **How do the poems' structures contribute to their overall impact and interpretation?**
   Examining structural elements will provide a deeper understanding of the poems' storytelling techniques.

# Chatgpt - Self-Rating and Evidence

- I would rate my introduction as a H1 standard. Here's why:

- **Clarity and Focus:** The introduction clearly states the purpose of the essay and sets up the framework for the analysis.

- **Relevance:** It directly addresses the essay prompt by agreeing with the statement and hinting at the themes and styles to be discussed.

- **Contextual Understanding:** There is an implicit understanding of the historical and cultural context of Ní Chuilleanáin's poetry.

- **Engagement with the Text:** The introduction shows an engagement with the texts by mentioning specific poems that will be analyzed, indicating a detailed and focused approach.

- Evidence for the rating includes:

- **Specificity:** Mentioning the poems by name suggests a familiarity with the texts that will be analyzed.

- **Balanced Perspective:** While agreeing with the statement, the introduction sets up an analytical approach that suggests a detailed exploration rather than a superficial one.

- **Literary Insight:** The description of Ní Chuilleanáin's style as "beautiful and mysterious" shows an appreciation of the poet's literary qualities, promising a nuanced analysis.

- These elements collectively suggest a strong, high-standard response that is typical of a top-grade Leaving Certificate essay.

# Analysis

What is interesting is that all AI paragraphs can be improved upon.

Explain this to the students and get them to discuss what they consider to be weaknesses.

But there are areas that are excellent, what can they learn from these areas?

This way AI becomes a scaffolding tool for learning – analysing, evaluating and synthesizing with their own work – rather than a source to be exploited for a definitive answer.