

These are the errors that appear year after year in examiner reports. Knowing *what not to write* is just as important as knowing what to write. ★ marks Higher Tier only. Every mistake here has cost students marks in real exams.

Pathogens and Drug Development

■ **Students often write:** *"Monoclonal antibodies are produced by white blood cells in the body."*

✓ **Correct answer:** Monoclonal antibodies are produced ARTIFICIALLY in a laboratory. A specific B lymphocyte is fused with a tumour cell to create a hybridoma cell, which then divides indefinitely producing large quantities of identical antibodies.

■ **Examiner insight:** Monoclonal = made in lab from hybridoma cells. Not produced naturally by the immune system. This is an Edexcel-specific topic requiring knowledge of the hybridoma technique.

■ **Students often write:** *"Clinical trials: Phase 1 tests if the drug works on patients with the disease."*

✓ **Correct answer:** Phase 1 tests SAFETY using a small number of HEALTHY volunteers — not patients. Phase 2 tests effectiveness on patients with the disease. Phase 3 is the large-scale double-blind trial.

■ **Examiner insight:** Phase 1 = healthy volunteers = SAFETY. Phase 2 = patients = EFFECTIVENESS. Examiners frequently test whether students know which phase does what.