

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.

Photosynthesis and Plant Hormones

■ **Students often write:** *"Closing stomata during drought helps the plant photosynthesise better."*

✓ **Correct answer:** Closing stomata REDUCES photosynthesis because it prevents CO₂ from entering the leaf. Guard cells close stomata to conserve water in drought conditions, but this is a trade-off — reduced CO₂ entry limits photosynthesis.

■ **Examiner insight:** Closed stomata = less water loss BUT less CO₂ enters = less photosynthesis. This trade-off is an important concept in Edexcel plant biology.

■ **Students often write:** *"Auxin moves towards the light and stimulates growth on that side."*

✓ **Correct answer:** Auxin moves AWAY from the light to the SHADED side. High auxin on the shaded side causes THOSE cells to elongate more. The result is bending TOWARDS the light. Students consistently get the direction of auxin movement wrong.

■ **Examiner insight:** Auxin → shaded side → elongation there → shoot bends toward light. The direction of auxin movement is counter-intuitive. Draw a diagram to help remember.