

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.

Nervous System

■ **Students often write:** *"Nerve impulses travel across synapses as electrical signals."*

✓ **Correct answer:** Electrical impulses travel **ALONG** neurones. At synapses, signals are carried by **CHEMICAL** neurotransmitters that diffuse across the synaptic cleft.

■ **Examiner insight:** Within neurone = electrical. Across synapse = chemical. Both are required in OCR nervous system answers.

Hormones and Blood Glucose

■ **Students often write:** *"Type 2 diabetes means the pancreas doesn't make enough insulin."*

✓ **Correct answer:** In Type 2 diabetes, the pancreas often still produces insulin, but the body's cells have become **RESISTANT** to it — they no longer respond properly. This is different from Type 1 where beta cells are destroyed and no insulin is produced.

■ **Examiner insight:** Type 1 = no insulin made. Type 2 = insulin made but cells can't use it properly. Different cause, different treatment.