

GCSE Writing Grammar & Structures

Major and minor errors

The following supplementary information is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive but provides some examples though these are dependent on contexts.

This information relates to GCSE Writing in French, German, Irish and Spanish.

Major errors

A major error is one which seriously affects communication and seriously impedes understanding.

Examples:

- major spelling mistake which renders a word unrecognisable
- incorrect verb tense used
- confusion with verb tenses e.g. conditional ending in a future context
- incorrect syntax
- disregarding rules of target language word order
- use of English syntax
- omitting key words
- accent missing which affects communication
- use of another target language
- use of English

Minor errors

A minor error is one which does not seriously affect communication and does not seriously impede understanding.

Examples:

- minor incorrect spelling which does not affect communication
- incorrect agreement/s
- incorrect article/gender
- incorrect capitalisation
- incorrect punctuation such as full stop, commas, apostrophes, etc.
- accent missing or accent present when not required

