

Mr B's Essential Guide To Exam Success:

How to get a C in English

- 1 C grade writing is mostly **accurate but pretty boring**. It has capital letters and full stops in the right places. Most words are spelt accurately, but they aren't very interesting words.
- 2 C grade writing often has too many **sentences joined together with "and" and "but"**. It would be better if there were sometimes some short, simple sentences at the start and end of paragraphs.
- 3 C grade writing has too many **sentences with the same pattern** (eg "'I was ..."; "it is ..."). It would be better if the writer used different patterns.

This **is** C writing:

Describe the room you are in.

I am in a small room and it is not very nice and it feels like a present. There is a computer and a few books and magazines, but at the moment it is also full of revision guides. It used to be somewhere I liked to be but during the exams I do not really like it here much.

(= accurate, lots of "and" and "but", lots of similar sentences patterns ["it is"], not very exciting vocabulary, all a bit boring really)

This **isn't** C writing. It's a B:

Describe the room you are in.

This room is like a prison. I feel as if I am trapped here and will never escape. Revision guides surround me, making me think of nothing but the exams ahead. I used to be happy here.

(= accurate, not too much "and" and "but", different sentence patterns, more interesting)