

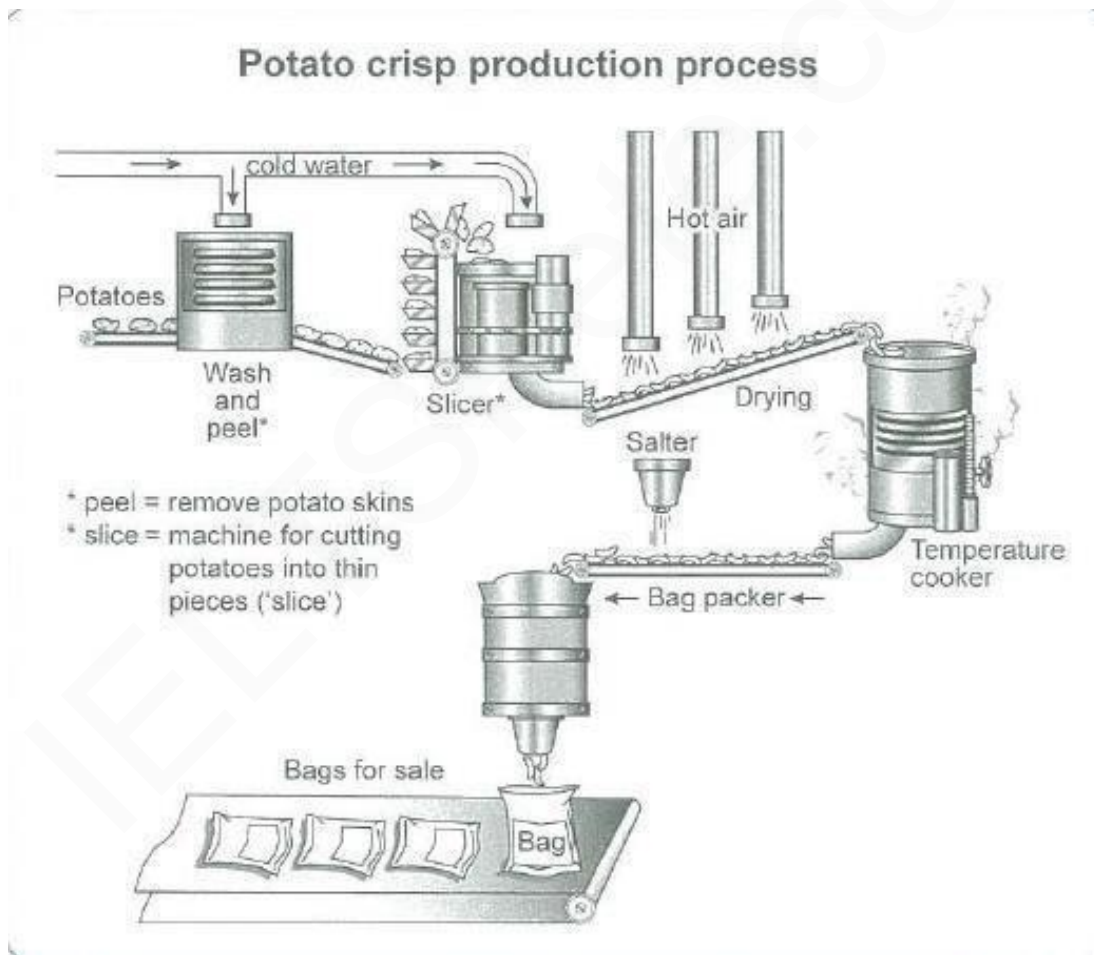
## Process Diagram: Essay Structure

*The diagram below shows the process of making potato chips.*

*Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.*

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

Write at least 150 words.



Although the instructions state “*make comparisons where relevant*,” in a process diagram there are seldom any comparisons to be made, so the essay needs to simply start at the beginning and describe each stage through to the last one.

# Essay Structure

(to be used with process diagrams)

Introduction  
Main Body I  
Main Body II  
Main Body III  
Conclusion  
(possibly)

## 1. Introduction

The introduction is made up of two sentences:

- a. The first sentence simply restates (paraphrases) the illustrations' introduction from the test question.
- b. The second sentence is a general overview of the process and mentions the number of stages involved. It also names the first and last stages. (NB: The IELTS band descriptors state, that in order to achieve a band 6 or higher, the essay must include an overview, which is why it is written in the introduction so that it can't be missed at the end due to time running out.)

## 2. Main Body Paragraphs

- a. The main body paragraphs now describe all the stages of the process in the diagram.
- b. A process is a series of events, one taking place after the other. Therefore, to connect the stages, it's necessary to use sequential language.
- c. Plan the essay before beginning to write it by looking at the diagram and making short notes on each stage.
- d. Using sequential language, simply link the notes together into flowing sentences until each stage has been described.
- e. Where possible, use the simple present passive voice to describe a process. For example, the clay is filtered (v3) through a steel grid.
- f. Add your own plausible (realistic) information and descriptions in order to achieve the 150-word count.

## 3. Conclusion

- a. For a process diagram, it is generally not necessary to write a conclusion, as the essay ends with describing the last stage.