

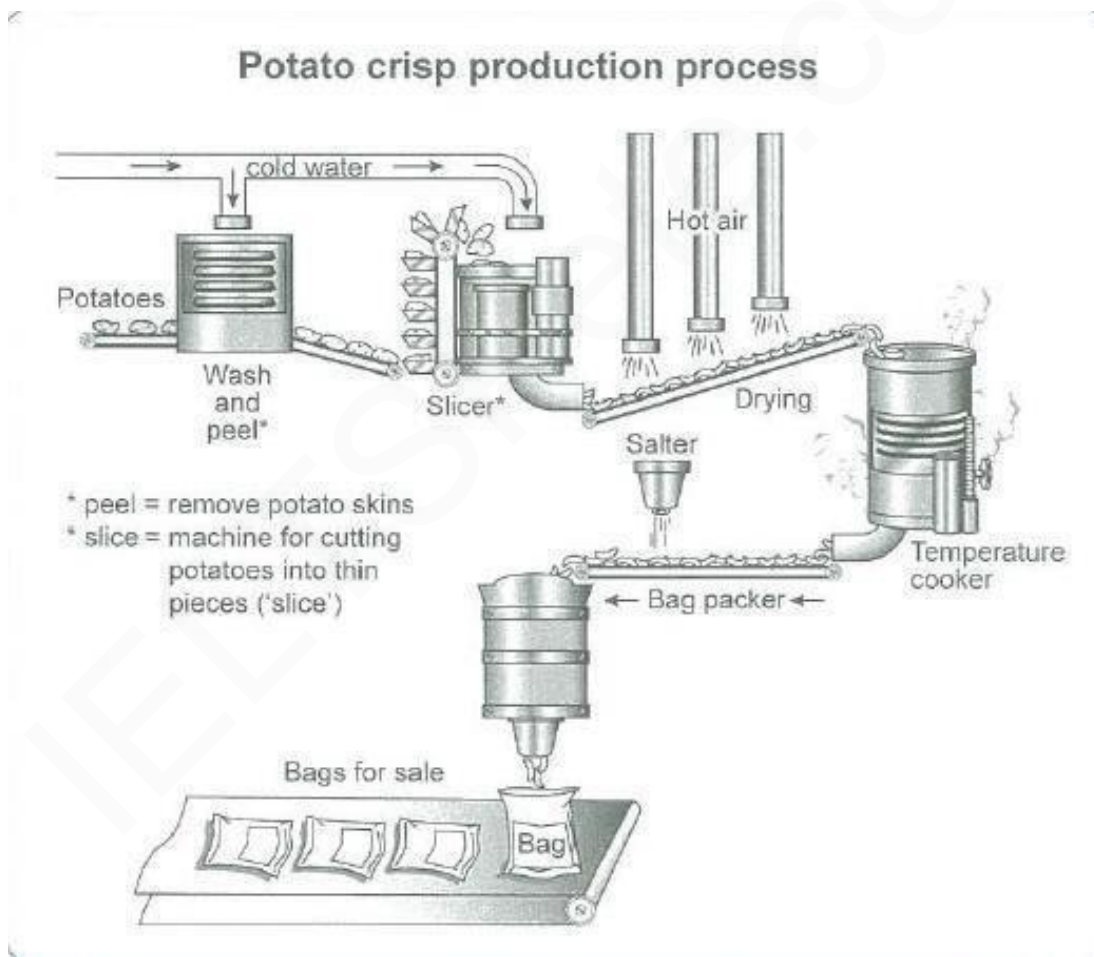
Process Diagram: Essay Structure

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. To write the first introduction sentence, simply restate (paraphrase) 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.