Academic Writing Sample Task – 1C – Sample Script C

Brick Manufacturing

The process by which clay bricks are manufactured for the building industry can be outlined in seven consecutive steps.

First the raw material, clay, which lies just below the surface of soil in certain clay-rich areas has to be dug up by a diggers.

Then the lumps of clay are placed on a metal grid in order to break up the big chunks of clay into much smaller ones, which fall through the metal grid onto a roller, whose motion further segregates the bits of clay. Sand and water are added to make a homogenous mixture, which is then either formed in moulds or cut into brick-shaped pieces by means of a wire cutter.

These fresh bricks are then kept in a drying oven for at least 24 and a maximum of 48 hours, several dozens if not hundreds of bricks at a time.

The dried bricks are then transferred to a so-called kiln, another type of high temperature oven. First they are kept at a moderate temperature of 200°C - 980°C, then at a high temperature of 870°C - 1300°C. This process is followed by cooling down the finished bricks for 48 to 72 hours in a cooling chamber.

Once the bricks have been cooled down and have become hard, they get packaged and ~~finally~~ delivered to their final destination, ~~by mean for example by means of trucks~~ be it a building site or storage.

Examiner comment

Band 8.5

This response fully satisfies the requirements of the task. All key features of each stage of the process are appropriately and accurately presented. There is an overview in the first paragraph indicating that there are ‘seven consecutive steps’ however for the highest score, a fuller overview would be needed, to summarise those key stages, for example; extracting the clay, then shaping, drying and delivering the bricks. The message is very easy to read with seamless cohesion. Paragraphing, linking and referencing are all skilfully managed. The language used is very fluent and sophisticated. A wide range of vocabulary and structures are used with full flexibility and accuracy within the scope of this task. Only rare minor errors can be found and these do not detract from communication or the high rating. This item is a good example of a very high-level response.