

Mindset for IELTS Level 3 Skills Modules

Unit 8: Writing Exercise 5

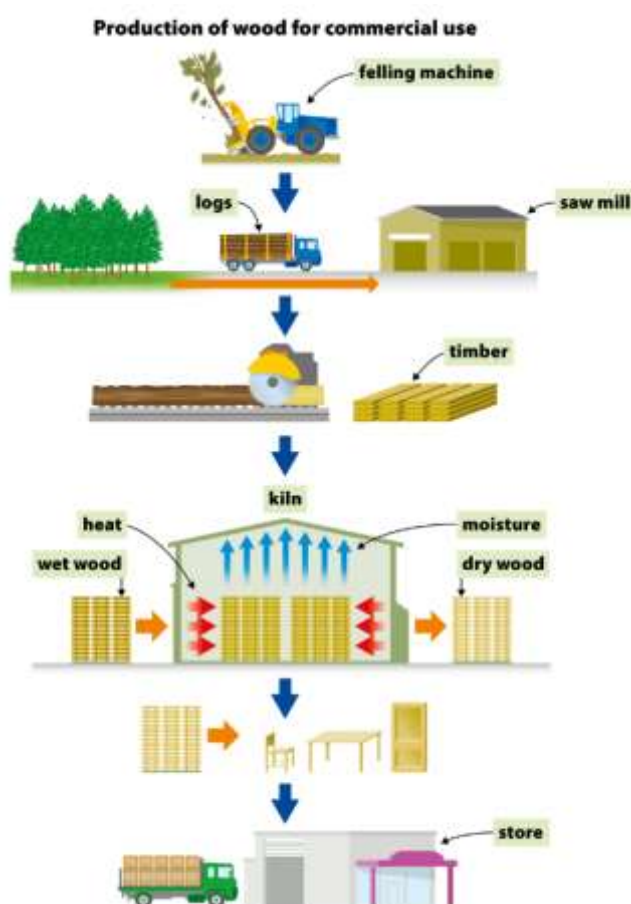
WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The diagram below shows the process of producing wood for commercial use.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words



This model answer has been prepared by an examiner as a very good answer. However, please note that this is just one answer out of many possible approaches.

The flow chart summarises in graphic form the procedure whereby wood is converted from trees into a sellable product. There are 6 main steps involved in the process.

The first stage is the harvesting of the trees that supply the wood, using a felling machine, a vehicle that looks similar to a tractor, followed by the felled tree logs being transported by truck to the saw mill. In the saw mill, the logs are then cut into shape using electrical saws to convert them into useable timber planks. At this stage, the new timber is still wet so, after this stage, in order to dry the wood so that it can be used for construction, the timber is then moved to a kiln building. Here it is heated so that moisture evaporates from the wood out through the kiln roof. The dried wood is then ready to be used for the construction of products, in this case furniture such as chairs, tables and doors. The final stage in the process sees the finished product or products being transported by truck again, this time to the stores, where they can be sold on to consumers.

(194 words)

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Unit 8: Writing Exercise 10

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend 40 minutes on this task

The advantages of robots doing the basic serving functions in the entertainment, leisure and retail sectors of the economy outweigh the disadvantages.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Give your opinion. Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

This model answer has been prepared by an examiner as a very good answer. However, please note that this is just one answer out of many possible approaches.

With the use of robots in manufacturing now a fact of life, we are now moving towards a time in which the retail and service industries are replacing workers with robots as well. Whilst there are some clear benefits for employers, I feel that overall their use would be disadvantageous, particularly for consumers or employees.

At face value it is easy to see why many industries are turning to robots. With today's technology, it is possible to produce machines that can accomplish many of the tasks that humans do. What is more, from an employer's perspective, robots are economically a better proposition in that they do not

require wages, they do not get sick and they do not take industrial action against their employers.

However, using robots to build cars is one thing. Using robots in service industries is a very different matter. Whilst it can be argued robots could manage basic service functions, such as selling tickets or even preparing food and drinks, these are not the only service roles performed by entertainment, leisure and retail workers. These industries are all based on making consumers feel looked after, which requires the human touch. Can robots effectively deal with complaints from dissatisfied customers? Would a robot be able to effectively be able to advise a consumer on the product that best suits their sense of style or personality? The answer is probably no to both questions. In addition, the use of service robots would rob many unskilled workers of potential employment, putting a strain on the economy and reducing the overall amount of disposable income for leisure pursuits.

In summary, whilst it is clear that there are some limited advantages to having service industry robots, given that such industries are very much based on providing an enjoyable customer experience, the lack of human interaction would outweigh this in my opinion, and be ultimately detrimental to the service they are offering.

(320 words)