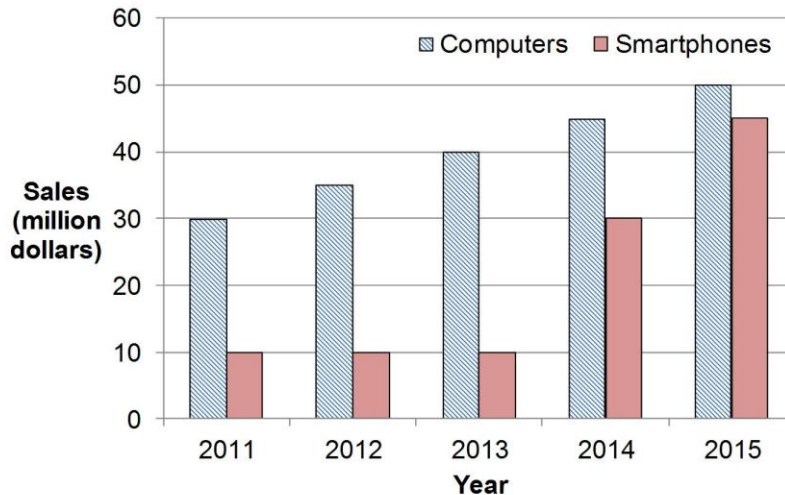


Exam question

The bar chart shows the amount of money spent on two types of electronic items in country X.

Summarise the information in the chart by selecting and reporting the main features. Make comparisons where relevant.



The chart gives information about how much money was spent on computers and smartphones in country X between the years 2011 and 2015.

According to the chart, there were upward trends in spending on both items. Computer sales increased steadily by \$5 million each year. Smartphone sales remained level at \$10 million until 2013 and then increased dramatically, reaching \$45 million dollars in 2015. Although they are still less than the value of computer sales, they are only \$5 million behind.

People's total expenditure on these electronic devices rose dramatically in this period. The total was \$40 million in 2011 and it rose to \$95 million in 2015.

Overall, the sales of both of these items grew, but smartphone sales grew more quickly. If these trends continue, we can expect smartphone sales to overtake computer sales in 2016 or soon after.

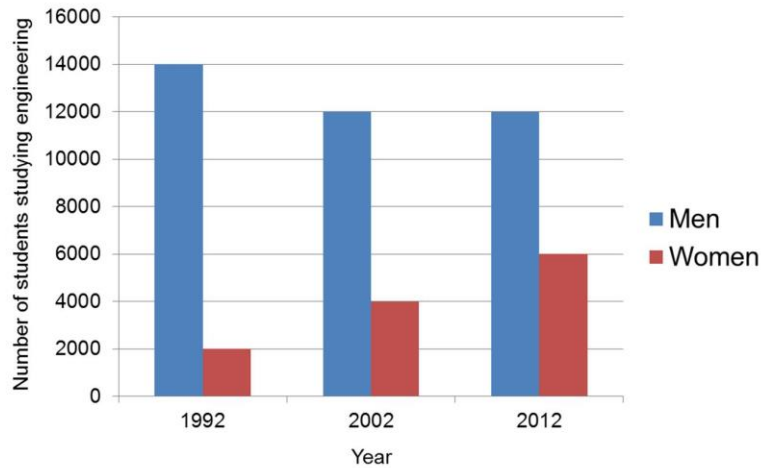
Top Tips for writing

1. The first paragraph is short. It should simply say what the chart shows and where and when it describes.
2. Avoid repeating words in the question. Instead, use other words with the same or similar meanings.
3. Describe the trends you can see. Use numbers from the chart.
4. To sum up, highlight the most important things the information shows. You can also say what is likely to happen in the future.
5. Don't try to explain the chart. In this type of exam question you just have to describe what happened, not say why it happened.

Exam question

The bar chart below shows the number of men and women studying engineering at Australian universities.

Summarise the information in the chart by selecting and reporting the main features. Make comparisons where relevant.



The bar chart illustrates the number of men and women studying engineering at Australian universities between the years 1992 and 2012 at 10-year intervals.

It can be seen that the number of male students fell slightly from 14,000 in 1992 to 12,000 in 2002, and then remained level through the following decade. The number of female students is relatively low, starting at 2,000 in 1992. However, while the number of men decreased, the number of women increased.

Female students grew steadily by 2,000 each decade. This led to a rise in the total number of engineering students from 16,000 to 18,000 in this period.

Men continue to make up the majority of students. However, the proportion of female students increased sharply in this period. In 1992 there was one woman to every seven men, but by 2012 this had narrowed to one woman to every two men.

Overall, we can see a clear upward trend in the number of female engineering students in Australian universities, while the number of male students seems to have levelled off.

Top Tips for writing

1. Start by saying exactly what the chart shows, and the time period.
2. Describe the changes as precisely as you can. Use data and numbers from the bar chart.
3. Compare the information. Talk about differences or similarities between the groups shown.
4. Conclude by saying what the main trends or changes are.

Exam question

The charts show information about the reading habits of UK teenagers. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features. Make comparisons where relevant.

Figure 1: Teenagers' favourite fiction genres by gender (United Kingdom, 2016)

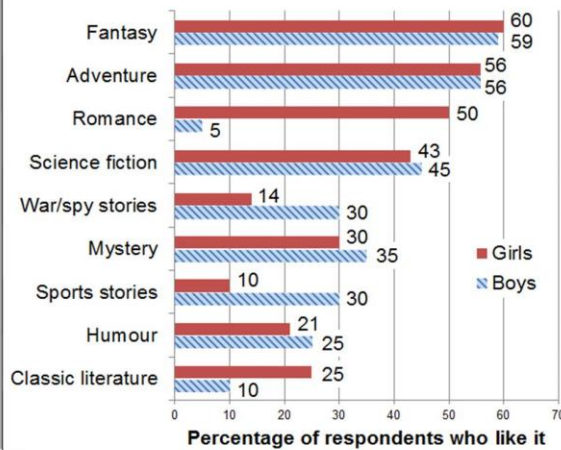
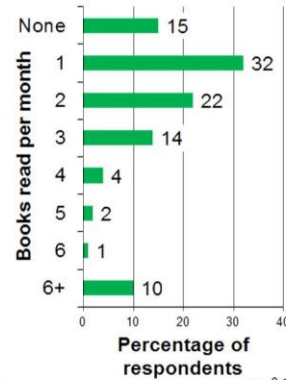


Figure 2: Number of books read monthly by young people aged 13 to 19 in the United Kingdom (2016)



The charts show information about young people's reading habits in the UK in 2016. The first gives a breakdown of girls' and boys' preferred fiction genres and the second tells us the number of books read per month.

Overall, it is clear that British boys and girls both liked reading many different genres. Several genres appealed equally to both sexes, but boys and girls had different tastes in some types of story. With regard to how much they read, the vast majority of young people read at least one book a month, but the actual number differed widely from person to person.

Looking at Figure 1 more closely, we can see that fantasy and adventure were the most favoured genres. They were enjoyed by more than half of all male and female respondents (56 to 60%). Science fiction was also liked by a fairly equal number of both sexes. However, other genres showed clear differences in readership. The third most preferred genre for girls was romance, but this was by far the least popular genre with boys, with just five per cent saying they liked it. Classic literature also had a mainly female readership. The reverse situation was found with war/spy stories and sports stories, which were two to three times more read by boys than by girls.

Encouragingly, Figure 2 shows that about 85% of young people in the UK read regularly. Most of them (32%) read only one book a month, but a fairly large number read two or three books. After that, the number of readers became progressively smaller, falling to only one per cent who read six books per month. However, what stands out here is how many young people read more than six books: a surprisingly large ten per cent.

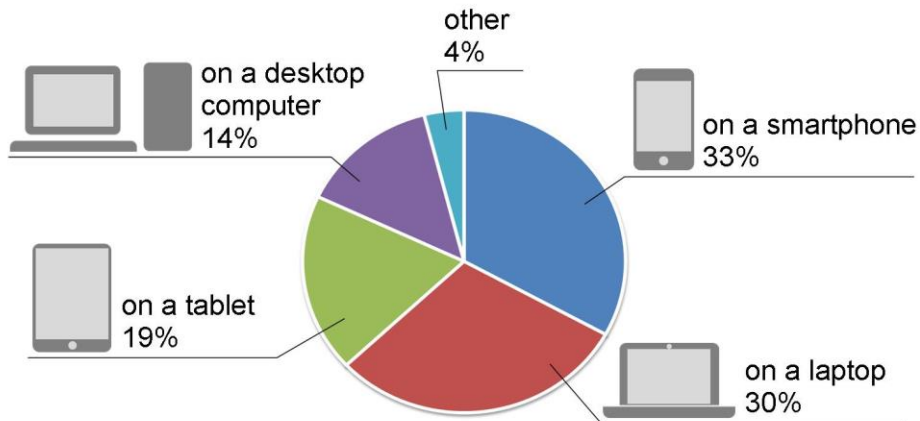
Top Tips for writing

1. Check the wording of the question. If it asks you to summarise or describe the data, you just need to select the most significant points and report them. You don't need to interpret them or give reasons for them unless the question asks you to explain or comment on the data.
2. Start by stating what the topic of the data is and who, where and when it relates to. Then, summarise the main features. (Alternatively, the summary can be your final paragraph.)
3. Use words and phrases to connect one idea to another and to change the topic smoothly when you introduce a new point.
4. Make direct comparisons in the data. Point out similarities and differences between different groups.
5. You can use adverbs to express an opinion about what you are describing.

Exam question

The pie chart below illustrates how internet users aged 16+ prefer to access the internet at home and in other places.

Summarise the information in the pie chart by selecting and reporting the main features.



This graph shows the results of a survey in which people aged 16 and over were asked about their preferred devices for accessing the internet. The question referred to going online at home and in other places. Participants mentioned four main devices in their answers: a smartphone, a laptop, a tablet and a desktop computer.

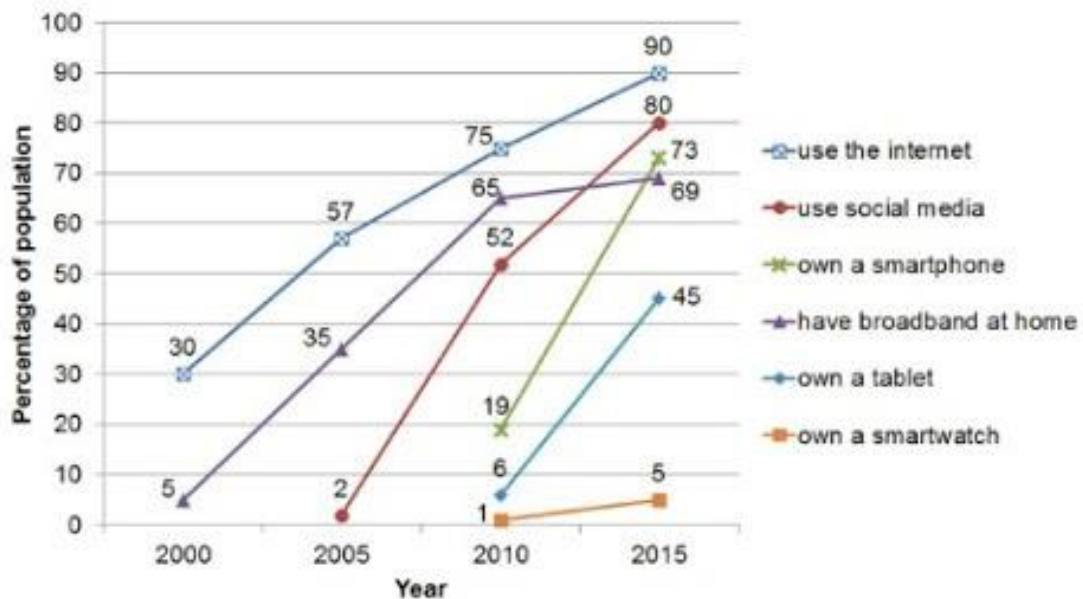
From the pie chart it is clear that the majority of participants prefer to use smartphones and laptops, with just three per cent difference between the two. Nearly a third of participants prefer to go online with a smartphone. Thirty per cent like to use a laptop. A desktop computer accounts for fourteen per cent of users' preferred devices. Only a small minority prefer a device other than these main four.

In conclusion, since mobile and portable devices are the most popular choices, it is clear that many participants are accessing the internet outside their homes. The desktop computer is the least popular of the four main devices. In future, we can probably expect to see more and more people accessing the internet with smartphones as their preferred choice.

Top Tips for writing

1. Start by saying exactly what the pie chart shows. Avoid copying words in the question – use other words with the same or similar meanings.
2. Mention the survey question that participants answered.
3. Explain what the different sections of the pie chart refer to.
4. Describe the key findings shown in the chart.

The graph shows information about technology usage in the UK over time. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features. Make comparisons where relevant.



The graph shows the rate at which British people adopted new technology over a 15-year period from 2000 to 2015. The figures are given as percentages of the population.

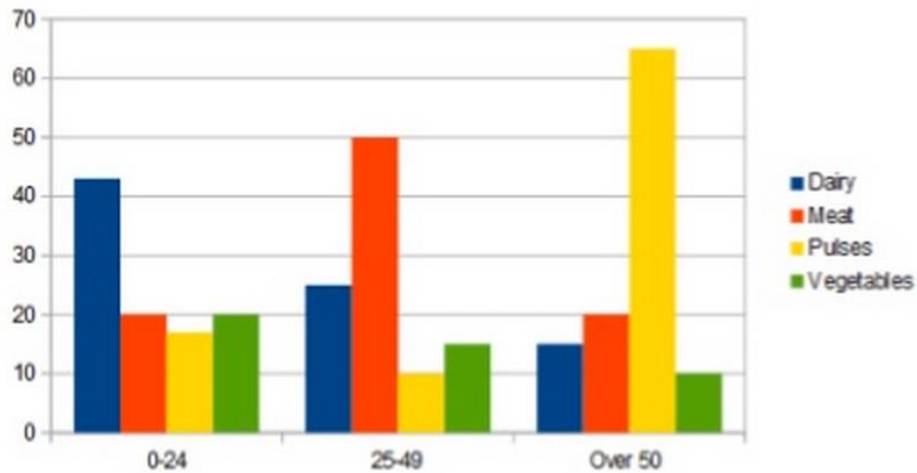
Overall, there was widespread adoption of new technology during these years. Nearly nine out of ten people in the UK were online by 2015. The figures for having broadband in the home, ownership of a smartphone and use of social media platforms were all high that year too, at around 70 to 80 per cent, and nearly half the population owned a tablet. The only exception to this is smartwatch ownership, which remained comparatively low at 5 per cent.

If we look at the trends over time, we can see that the uptake of new technology increased dramatically in this period. For example, internet usage tripled and social media usage grew strikingly by 78 percentage points. Smartphones and tablets appeared in 2010 and, similarly, these followed a steep upward trajectory. However, for some products, the graph shows that growth slowed down noticeably after an initial surge. Social media usage, for instance, was near zero in 2005 and shot up to 52 per cent in 2010, before climbing more slowly to 80 per cent in 2015. Also, broadband subscriptions rose steadily by 30 percentage points every five years to 2010, but by a modest 4 percentage points after then. In contrast, the newer technologies such as tablets showed no sign of levelling off.

Ownership of all the technologies was increasing; it will be interesting to see when it peaks.

Calorie Source for UK males at different life periods.

Percentage of total intake.



Bar Graph Report:

The bar chart shows the caloric intake of UK males in three distinct age groups of 0-24, 25-49, and over 50 years old.

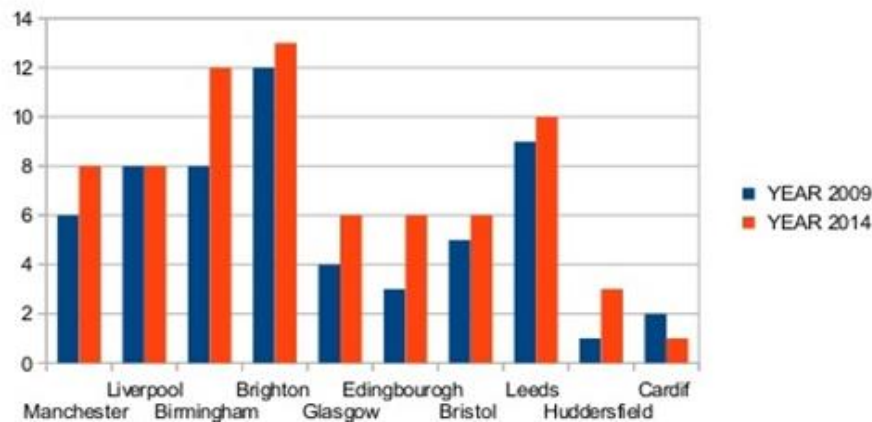
Dairy for the 0-24 age group was the highest source of calories, whilst the other categories each represented about 20% each. In the next age group dairy fell to around a quarter, and meat became the main source of calories, reaching half of the total intake.

Pulses and vegetables reached 10% and 15% respectively. Pulses in the final age group increased six fold to over 60%, whereas calories obtained from vegetables was 10%, half that of meat (20%), and even slightly less than dairy (15%).

The 50+ group shows the most marked preference out of all the groups. It also confirms the gradual decline in vegetable consumption as males become older.

Overall it is clear that each age group has a clear favourite which varies depending on age. However vegetables are consistently amongst the least popular, regardless of age.

International student enrolment in British universities 2009-2014



The bar chart shows the percentage of international students enrolled in British universities in two years, 1990 and 2014.

The majority of the universities managed to increase the percentage of international students present at their institutions. The universities that experienced the largest increase were the Scottish ones: Glasgow jumped from 4% to 6%, while Edinburgh's percentage doubled from 3% to 6%. In England, Huddersfield also increased its percentage of foreign students considerably. The university with the largest percentage in both 1990 and 2014 was Brighton, at 12% and 13% respectively.

The only university to lose international students in percentage terms was Cardiff, falling from 2% to 1%. All universities underwent some change, except Liverpool whose proportion of international students remained stable at 8%. Manchester, Bristol and Leeds each experienced an increase, albeit of a smaller proportion, in the range of 1-2 percentage points growth.

Over the twenty-four year period, changes in the percentage of students enrolled has fluctuated but generally towards an upward trend. The decrease was in Cardiff, which falls short of the leader Brighton, by 12 points.