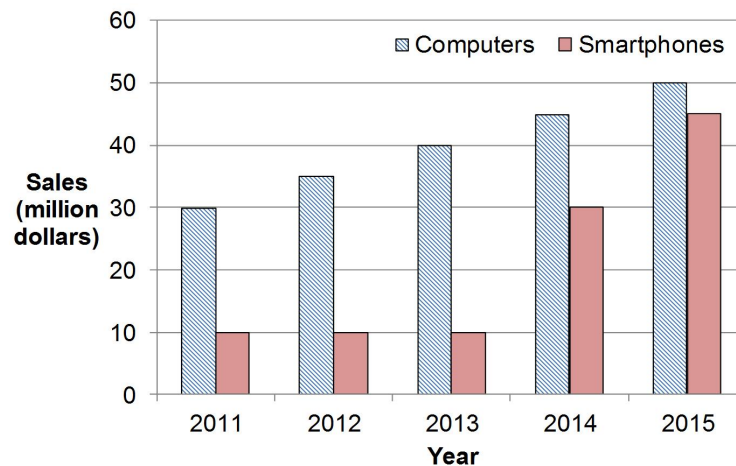


**Writing skills practice: Describing a bar chart – text**
**Exam question**

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**

- The first paragraph is short. It should simply say what the chart shows and where and when it describes.
- Avoid repeating words in the question. Instead, use other words with the same or similar meanings.
- Describe the trends you can see. Use numbers from the chart.
- To sum up, highlight the most important things the information shows. You can also say what is likely to happen in the future.
- 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.