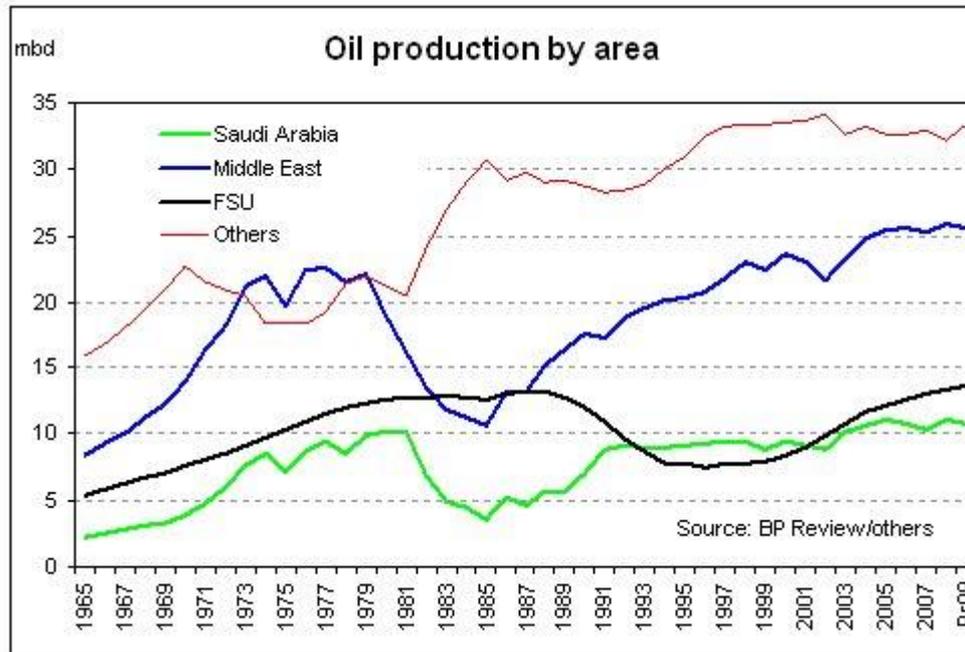


English I  
Minitest  
9 November 2011

A. WRITING (13 points)

Consider the following figure.



FSU = Former Soviet Union

Using your knowledge of the oil industry, explain the trends in the figure. (Max. 1 page)  
Your text will be marked on relevance of content, range and appropriacy of structures and vocabulary, and grammatical accuracy.

B. VOCABULARY (2 points)

Complete each of the following sentences, which were taken from recent editions of the business section of newspapers, with an appropriate word or expression. A paraphrase or definition and the first letter are given. (0.4 points each)

1. After 1982, the US stock market experienced the biggest *b... m...* ever. (period in which stock prices rise rapidly)
2. Italy was dragged deeper into Europe's debt crisis on Monday as its borrowing costs *s...* to their highest level (rose quickly and dramatically)
3. Analysts say motives behind Russia's *t...* efforts include the desire to gain global clout and preserve its influence in a country where it had billions of dollars in arms, energy and railway deals. (solving major problems)
4. GG Media, the rival to the Go Racing consortium negotiating a horseracing media rights deal, has launched an *a... c...* to promote its offer. (publicity made up of several components)
5. Going back to 1990, textiles were the number one export product, *a...* around 18% of total exports. (making up)

C. READING COMPREHENSION (5 points)

Read the text and answer the questions.

**Why are oil prices so high?**

1. Brent crude oil is cruising at the historically high price of around \$110 a barrel despite the threat of a double-dip recession. Why?  
The price of oil dived 3% on Tuesday as Greece announced plans for a referendum and stock markets panicked. Within 24 hours, Brent blend had bounced back and on
5. Thursday was cruising along on not far short of \$110 per barrel. **This** is historically a very strong price which puts 2011 on course for the highest year-average oil price on record. But why?  
If the rest of the investment community is factoring in the possibility of a double-dip recession then surely energy prices should reflect a big potential hole in demand resulting
10. from major economic slowdown. The answer is that many oil executives and traders are optimistic not only that the eurozone will sort out its problems but that China and the rest of Asia will maintain **their** ever-growing appetite for energy imports.  
Oil demand in China – now the world's biggest importer – is expected to grow by 6% in 2012 at a time when oil companies such as ExxonMobil and Shell are struggling against
15. falling production levels. On top of **this** is the fact that no sooner than a new supply looks set to come back on stream, such as Libya, there is a technical or civil disruption problem in Nigeria or the North Sea. Geopolitical tremors are also always good for oil price hikes. Talk of bombing Iran or any other major event in the oil-rich Middle East does nothing but send tremors around the global oil community.
20. And then there is the fact that the market has a fairy godmother – or is it godfather: Opec. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries is still exerting its cartel powers in a wider business environment where protectionism is frowned on.  
The leaders of Opec have been highly successful in turning the tap on and off to ensure they get the price of crude they want to keep their national coffers supplied.
25. And there are upward price pressures for Middle East rulers who have been pouring money into their own economies to try to buy-off citizens and avoid any autumn extension to the Arab spring.  
A mega-downturn in the global economy could yet spoil **the oil party** but expect the champagne glasses to stay clinking.

Answer the following questions TRUE or FALSE according to the text. (0.5 points each)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. In 2011 the price of oil has remained unusually high considering the economic situation.                   |  |
| 2. The major economic slowdown has caused a decrease in demand for oil.                                       |  |
| 3. The writer argues that OPEC controls the price of oil in order to keep their own profits high.             |  |
| 4. In the Middle East, the governments have used high oil prices to avoid stability amongst their population. |  |
| 5. The North Sea and Nigeria have important oil fields.   |  |
| 6. The writer thinks that oil prices will remain high.  |  |

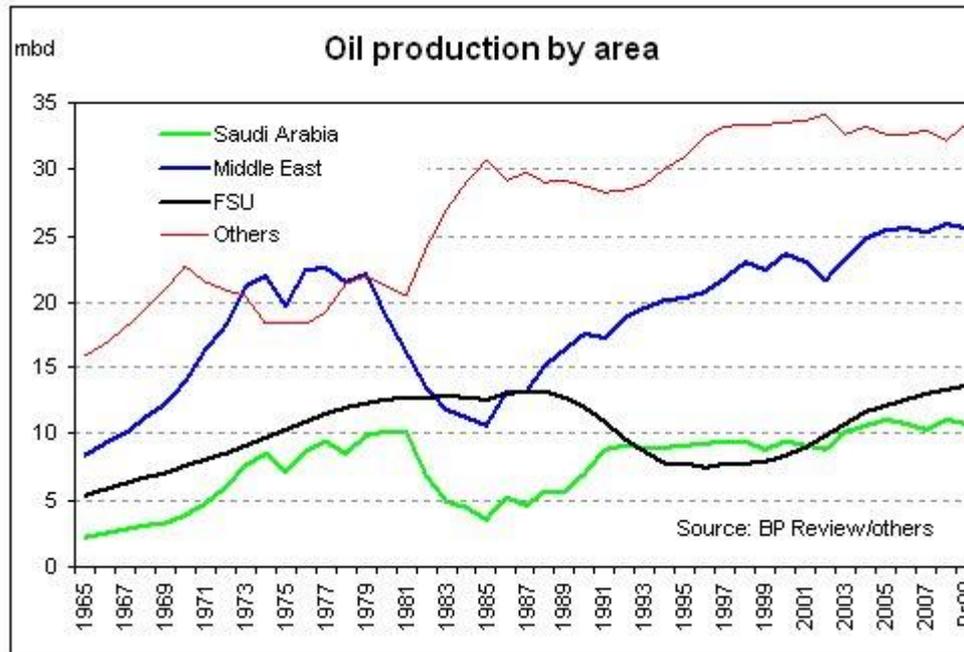
What do the following expressions (in bold in the text) refer to?

7. **This** (line 5)
8. **their** (line 12)
9. **this** (line 15)
10. **the oil party** (line 28)

English I  
Minitest  
9 November 2011

A. WRITING (13 points)

Consider the following figure.



FSU = Former Soviet Union

Using your knowledge of the oil industry, explain the trends in the figure. (Max. 1 page)  
Your text will be marked on relevance of content, range and appropriacy of structures and vocabulary, and grammatical accuracy.

B. VOCABULARY (2 points)

Complete each of the following sentences, which were taken from recent editions of the business section of newspapers, with an appropriate word or expression. A paraphrase or definition and the first letter are given. (0.4 points each)

1. London shares are now in a **b... m.....** (period in which stock prices fall precipitously)
2. "Howard Archer, chief UK economist at IHS Global Insight, said he suspected October's price rise would "prove to be a temporary **s...**". (sudden rise in prices to be followed by a dramatic drop)
3. Angela Ahrendts, Burberry's chief executive, is trying to **r...** the 155-year-old brand as a bona fide luxury name. (change the market for whom the company caters)
4. Small investors' ire unlikely to **h... s...** City opinion (control, dominate)
5. Papandreou, in his moment of despair, represented both good intentions undone by personal failings, and the insular political elite whose weaknesses brought Greece to the terrifying brink of **b...** and isolation. (becoming insolvent)

C. READING COMPREHENSION (5 points)

Read the text and answer the questions.

**BP's bid to clean up its act dealt blow by revelations in Russia case**

Court documents show the oil giant appeared to regard its partners in a major deal as criminals

Terry Macalister

- 1 BP's attempt to rebuild its public image after the worst oil spill in US history has been dealt a blow by court documents showing it was willing to do a major deal with Russian billionaires whom it regarded as "crooks and thugs" to gain access to the country's vast oil wealth.
- 5 The damaging allegations have come to light at a critical time for BP, which faces a criminal investigation by the US justice department while preparing to fight a massive legal case in New Orleans over the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.
- North American rival Norex Petroleum is seeking \$1bn damages in its case at the New York supreme court as it argues that BP and its Russian business partner, TNK, have benefited from oil assets that were seized in the late 1990s. Russia is important to BP – its joint-venture, TNK-BP, produces a quarter of its oil. At the heart of **the dispute** is the alleged misappropriation of the Yugraneft oilfield in Siberia, which Norex claims has generated \$1bn in oil revenues in the past decade.
- 10 In 2003, BP announced a \$6.75bn (£4.2bn) deal to acquire a 50% holding in Tyumen Oil – TNK – which was backed by Alfa Access Renova (AAR), a consortium controlled by four of the country's richest businessmen, Mikhail Fridman, German Khan, Leonard Blavatnik and Viktor Vekselberg.
- 15 A BP internal briefing, obtained by Norex and published through the New York court procedure, says: "Sources close to TNK believe [that the] local oil industry [has] been infested with criminal elements long before Alfa took over TNK."
- 20 BP itself suffered losses when the Yugraneft field was taken over by TNK and another confidential memo, dated 9 September 1999, and also revealed in the court papers, described the tension: "[Former TNK chief executive, Simon] Kukes noted ... TNK was purportedly characterised by BP Amoco as 'crooks and thugs'."
- 25 When BP formally teamed up with TNK, it asked for a clause to be written into the contract that would remove **it** from any liability in the event of a successful action by Norex. The Canadian company believes **this** is a "smoking gun", as **it** says it shows BP realised that the Yugraneft field could resurface as an issue. Norex's chairman, Alex Rotzang, said BP made a "deal with the devil" by striking the TNK deal in 2003.

*The Observer*, 5 November 2011

Answer the following questions TRUE or FALSE according to the text. (0.5 points each)

1. Norex claims that in the 1990s Tyumen Oil took over the Yugraneft oilfield from them illegally.
2. Recently BP's image has been damaged by 2 events.
3. It is unlikely that BP knew about the kind of people who controlled Tyumen Oil in 2000.
4. Norex Petroleum is a Canadian company.
5. BP is currently fighting 2 cases in the courts.
6. BP's involvement with Tyumen Oil goes back before the 2003 contract.

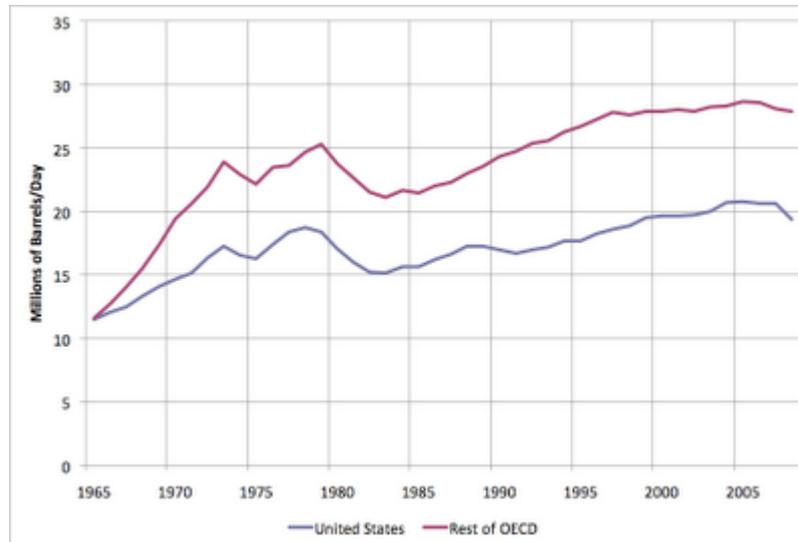

What do the following expressions (in bold in the text) refer to?

7. the dispute (*line 11*)
8. it (*line 26*)
9. this (*line 27*)
10. it (*line 27*)

English I  
Minitest  
November 2011

A. WRITING (13 points)

Consider the following figure.



*Oil consumption for the US and the rest of the OECD, 1965-2008. Source: BP.*

Using your knowledge of the oil industry, explain the trends in the figure. (Max. 1 page)  
Your text will be marked on relevance of content, range and appropriacy of structures and vocabulary, and grammatical accuracy.

B. VOCABULARY (2 points)

Complete each of the following sentences, which were taken from recent editions of the business section of newspapers, with an appropriate word or expression. A paraphrase or definition and the first letter are given. (0.4 points each)

1. The recent culling of senior executives following the departure of Tom Alexander and appointment of Olaf Swantee was the inevitable trigger for the *c...* being visited on ordinary workers in the company. (reductions)
2. Shares in property consultancy DTZ *s...* 90% on Monday after it said was in takeover talks but any deal would leave its shares virtually worthless. (fell)
3. Analysts say the deal is expected to set a *b...* for prices between Asian users and international mining companies. (reference value)
4. The Chancellor should use this month's Autumn statement to help customers and businesses by offering hope over next year's planned fuel *d...* and business rates increases. (tax)
5. The grim report from BDO is the third consecutive month that its output index, which measures turnover expectations, *d...* below the critical 95 mark indicating on-trend growth, meaning that the UK economy could be contracting. (has fallen)

## Petrol prices lowest since February as Asda cuts litre of fuel by 2p

Supermarket petrol prices fall as Tesco, Morrisons and Sainsbury's join Asda in price war

Jill Insley

1. Supermarket petrol prices are falling, with one retail chain cutting the cost of a litre of unleaded fuel to the lowest level since February 2011.  
Asda has cut its prices by 2p a litre. **This** will take the price of a litre of petrol to 128.7p, and 136.7p for diesel, at all of its 192 filling stations.
5. The supermarket says its own income tracker index shows that transport costs are the main pressure on households, with UK families £15 a week worse off than this time last year. "This price reduction will be a helpful boost to families," it said.  
Tesco also announced it was reducing prices by up to 2p a litre on petrol from Friday evening. In addition, **the company** is introducing promotions that can save customers a further 15p a litre on fuel. Sainsbury's has announced it will cut prices by 2p in many stores from 5 November.
10. Luke Bosdet of the AA said the moves reflect a 4p drop in the wholesale price of petrol: "Throughout the whole of the summer petrol prices have followed the fortunes of the euro: when the euro improved, petrol prices increased. Now things are coming to a head with the euro and we have the end of the Libyan crisis and the pound strengthening. **That** is worth about 3p-4p at the pump."  
Bosdet said Asda had "set its cap" at offering the lowest petrol prices, "although it has been pipped once or twice during the summer by Morrisons". Motorists who live near an Asda filling station generally benefit from lower prices at nearby garages owned by other petrol providers, he added, "but there are many towns in the UK that won't benefit from **that influence**".
15. Prices for 2 November, supplied by analysts Experian Catalyst and Asda, show that some retailers are asking up to 8p more than Asda
- 20.

*The Guardian*, 4 November 2011

Answer the following questions TRUE or FALSE according to the text. (0.5 points each)

1. Tesco, Sainsbury, Asda and Bosdet are supermarkets.
2. Petrol retailers whose stations are close to an Asda petrol station are likely to have higher gross retail margins than petrol retailers whose stations are not.
3. The average household spends more than £15/week more on petrol than it did last year.
4. Asda has probably cut its petrol prices because the wholesale price of petrol has fallen.
5. Asda claims it has cut its petrol prices because they want to help British households.
6. Supermarket petrol prices have never been lower than 128.7p in 2011.


What do the following expressions (in bold in the text) refer to?

7. *this (line 3)*
8. *the company (line 9)*
9. *That (line 16)*
10. *that influence (line 21)*

Answers

1. London shares are now in a *bear market*.
2. "Howard Archer, chief UK economist at IHS Global Insight, said he suspected October's price rise would "prove to be a temporary *spike*".
3. Angela Ahrendts, Burberry's chief executive, is trying to *reposition* the 155-year-old brand as a bona fide luxury name.
4. Small investors' ire unlikely to *hold sway over* City opinion
5. Papandreou, in his moment of despair, represented both good intentions undone by personal failings, and the insular political elite whose weaknesses brought Greece to the terrifying brink of *bankruptcy* and isolation.
  
6. After 1982, the US stock market experienced the biggest *bull market* ever.
7. Italy was dragged deeper into Europe's debt crisis on Monday as its borrowing costs *soared* to their highest level.
8. Analysts say motives behind Russia's *trouble-shooting* efforts include the desire to gain global clout and preserve its influence in a country where it had billions of dollars in arms, energy and railway deals.
9. GG Media, the rival to the Go Racing consortium negotiating a horseracing media rights deal, has launched an *advertising campaign* to promote its offer.
10. Going back to 1990, textiles were the number one export product, *accounting for* around 18% of total exports.
  
11. The recent culling of senior executives following the departure of Tom Alexander and appointment of Olaf Swantee was the inevitable trigger for the *cutbacks* being visited on ordinary workers in the company.
12. Shares in property consultancy DTZ *slumped* 90% on Monday after it said was in takeover talks but any deal would leave its shares virtually worthless.
13. Analysts say the deal is expected to set a *benchmark* for prices between Asian users and international mining companies.
14. The Chancellor should use this month's Autumn statement to help customers and businesses by offering hope over next year's planned fuel *duty* and business rates increases.
15. The grim report from BDO is the third consecutive month that its output index, which measures turnover expectations, *has dipped / dropped* below the critical 95 mark indicating on-trend growth, meaning that the UK economy could be contracting.