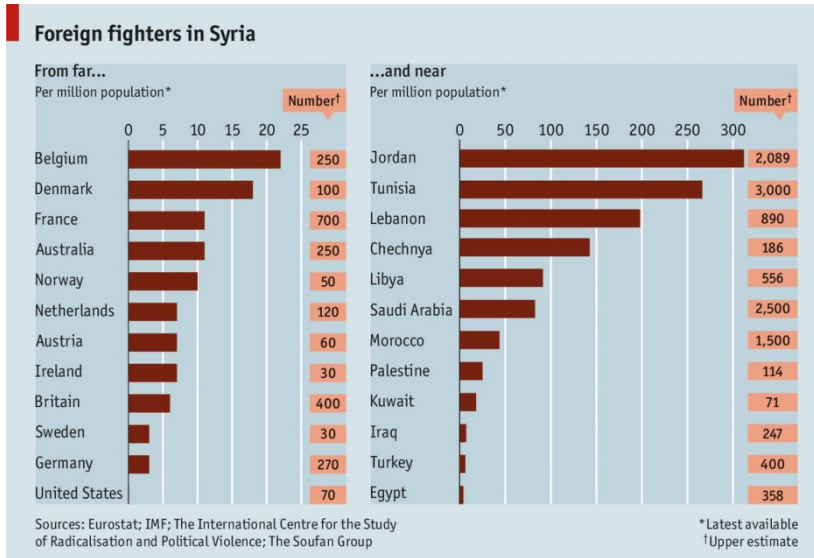


English I
Época Normal
 8 January 2015
 Time allowed: 2 hours

A. Writing (13.5 points)

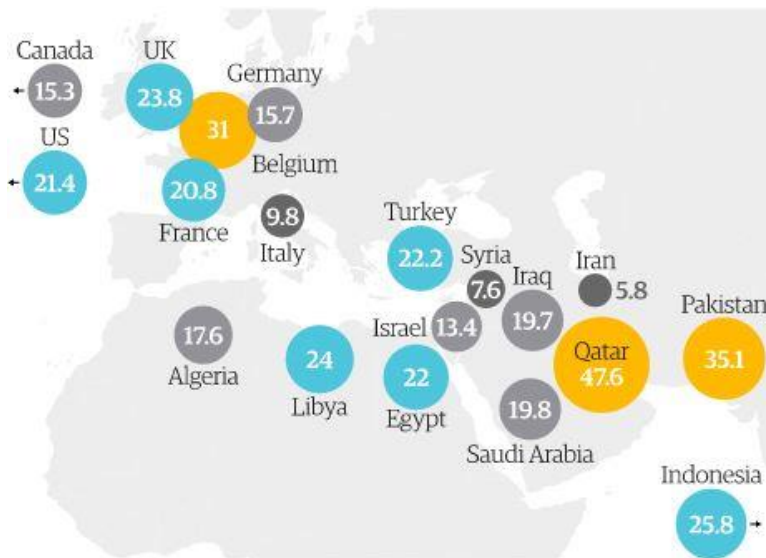
Consider the following information in Figures 1 and 2. Write the data commentary to accompany Figure 1. Include other relevant information to help explain the topic. (250-300 words)

Figure 1: Foreign fighters in Syria



Source: *The Economist*

Figure 2: % pro ISIS in tweets and posts related to ISIS in Arabic language social media (2014)



Source: <http://en.alalam.ir/news/1653479>

Your text will be marked on content; discourse management and genre; range and appropriacy of vocabulary and structures; and grammatical accuracy.

B. Reading Comprehension (4.55 points)

Read the text, then answer the questions that follow.

The return of geopolitical risk

1. EQUITY markets are selling off today as events in Ukraine move into a new phase of the crisis, with Russia undertaking military exercises and separatists seizing government buildings in the Crimea. If we have learned anything over the last week or so, it is that the Ukraine situation is so fast-moving - an apparently well-established president can flee the country, riot police can disappear from the streets - that it would be foolish to predict what will happen next.

There are plenty of historical analogies to pick from. The mind is drawn to events in Poland in 1939 where staged border incidents led to a German invasion. But that example may appear a little alarmist, given that world war resulted. Perhaps the more pertinent analogy, although not **one** necessarily more comforting to the people of Ukraine, would be the more recent conflict between Russia and Georgia in 2008. In that case, the west stood by and did nothing.

Collectively, if not perhaps individually, the investment community is pretty amoral, being less concerned about the rights and wrongs of any political dispute, and more concerned about the effect it might have on global trade and capital flows. One area is energy; BNP Paribas notes this morning a report that the Russian oil company Lukoil has halted oil shipments to a refinery in the Ukrainian city of Odessa. Over at Rabobank, strategists worry about the very high and ongoing threat **this issue** poses in terms of broader market risk appetite but still find a silver lining, given that this will be good for peripheral euro zone markets as investors eschew increasingly risky emerging markets but look to forego as little of the returns that they offer as possible.

If there is a consensus, it is probably that geopolitical risks have a tendency to go away. Think back over the last 24 years, going all the way back to the Kuwait crisis, and you will recall that markets sold off initially but recovered as the conflicts turned out either to be shorter, or less economically damaging, than **they** feared. Hence, while the markets have sold off today, the declines have hardly been substantial (between 0.8% and for the FTSE and 1.4% for the Dax at the time of writing).

Of course, that brings up yet another analogy. Those readers who have been working their way through the many books on the centenary of the First World War may recall that a series of diplomatic rows (Morocco in 1905, the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1908, even two Balkan wars) occurred in the run-up to 1914. Each incident might have led to a wider war but didn't, leading many to conclude that Europe would always be able to draw back from the brink. **This** may have led to miscalculations by political leaders in the summer of 1914.

To pursue the analogy a bit further, the underlying tensions were caused by the break-up of the Ottoman empire in the Balkans and by Austro-Hungarian nervousness about the rise of nationalism within their own borders. In this case, we are still seeing the after-effects of the fall of the Soviet Union and Russian nervousness about the example that Ukrainian nationalism/independent-mindedness might serve for **its** own minorities.

The lesson of all this is not, one hopes, that we are heading for wider conflict but that the decay of empires has aftershocks, like a massive earthquake. The new nations that form from the ashes of the old do not always have neat geographical boundaries, homogeneous populations or stable political leadership. Current geopolitical shifts are merely the aftermath of the great shocks of 1989 and 1990.

Buttonwood, *The Economist*, 27 February 2014

Name: Number:

B. Reading comprehension (cont.)

Choose **one** answer to each question and write the letter clearly in the box. [e.g. c]
(0.35 points each)

1. The main purpose of the article is
 - a. to describe current and historical situations.
 - b. to explain recent events.
 - c. to report recent events.
 - d. to argue an opinion.

2. Which sentence is true?
 - a. The Ukrainian president resigned from his position.
 - b. The Ukraine is part of the supply chain for some Russian oil.
 - c. The uncertainty of the situation in the Ukraine has caused many Russian oil companies to stop sending oil to the Ukraine.
 - d. All the alternatives are correct.

3. What is meant by 'broader market risk appetite' (line 19)?
 - a. None of the alternatives is true.
 - b. That there are more risky markets.
 - c. A wider tendency for investors to invest in risky markets.
 - d. The willingness of investors to take risks in related markets.

4. The writer suggests that
 - a. Russia will invade the Ukraine.
 - b. the Ukraine conflict is likely to lead to a third world war.
 - c. we can predict what will happen in the Ukraine.
 - d. the west probably won't become involved in the Ukraine conflict.

5. How is the Ukraine crisis similar to others in the past?
 - a. It has caused temporary but significant drops in European stock markets.
 - b. Russia carried out military exercises near its borders before invading the neighbouring country.
 - c. Diplomatic rows led to people protesting in the streets.
 - d. A rise in nationalist sentiment has led to separatist movements.

6. According to the writer,
 - a. geopolitical risks are always short-lived and go away.
 - b. investors are avoiding the risky peripheral euro-zone markets.
 - c. the West condoned Russia's invasion of Georgia.
 - d. Russia is afraid that its ethnic minorities will protest for independence.

7. Which statement is true?
 - a. The writer implies that the ethics of investors may not reflect their private ethics beliefs.
 - b. The writer feels that equity markets will suffer a lot because of the Ukraine crisis.
 - c. The writer implies that all investors are amoral.
 - d. All alternatives are true.

8. Which sentence best summarises the point of the article?
- a. The writer explains that equity markets are being affected by the geopolitical disputes in the Ukraine, but they still try to maximise their returns.
 - b. The writer argues that current events in the Ukraine are ultimately the result of the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989 and the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1990.
 - c. The writer compares the situation in the Ukraine today with similar situations in the past.
 - d. The writer believes that the effect on equity markets of the crisis in the Ukraine will be short lived.

Reference, substitution and ellipsis

What do the following items (highlighted in the text) refer to? (0.35 points each)

- 9. one (line 10)
- 10. this issue (line 18)
- 11. they (line 21)
- 12. This (line 33)
- 13. its (line 39)

C. Vocabulary (1.95 points)

Complete each sentence with an expression similar in meaning to the explanation in brackets. The first letter of the keyword is given to help you. You might need to add a preposition and you will need to conjugate verbs. (0.39 points each)

- 1. The Serious Fraud Office said on Thursday it is considering a criminal inquiry into alleged **p... f...** at BP and other oil companies already being investigated by European competition authorities. (practice of agreeing to charge the same rates for similar products or services)
- 2. At first glance **l...-f...** economics, small government and intense competition do not seem to offer companies strong incentives to engage in substantive corporate social actions. (free from government intervention, driven by market forces)
- 3. Iraqi politics may still be uncertain, but despite the influence of the clerics the country is a long way from becoming a **t...** (form of government in which God or a deity is recognised as the supreme civil ruler, the God's or deity's laws being interpreted by the ecclesiastical authorities)
- 4. Unilever, Procter & Gamble and Gillette are among those facing penalties for **c...** on price rises between 2003 and 2006. (cooperating secretly or illegally)
- 5. As the repercussions of the banking crisis reached Havant, in Hampshire, where a small bank was declared **i...** on Thursday, the 250 or so depositors were left to asking for their savings back from the government's guarantee scheme. (unable to pay debts owed, bankrupt)

Answers

A. Writing

A good answer will note salient information in figure 1. It will also make connections between the information in the two figures, using the information on social media tweets to explain information on the numbers of foreign fighters in Syria or to point out incongruent or unexpected relations. Possible content includes but is not restricted to:

- Foreign fighters from nearby countries account for the largest share of foreign fighters in Syria.
- There are more than 2000 fighters from western countries in Syria.
- Although France has more estimated fighters in Syria (700), followed by Britain (400), then Belgium and Australia, each of whom has 250, Belgium has the highest ratio, with 22 fighters per million population. By contrast, the ratios for both France and Australia, and Britain are approximately 11 and 6 respectively.
- The high ratio of Belgian fighters might be explained by the high volume of pro-ISIS tweets on social media. 31% of ISIS related tweets in Arabic are positive.
- By contrast, in Turkey and Egypt, where more than 20% of the ISIS-related tweets are supportive, the proportion of fighters in Syria is low, less than 5 per million population. This suggests that the role of Arabic language social media in recruiting foreign fighters is more complex than it might seem at first glance.

The answer will use appropriate structures and vocabulary to describe the trends in the graph. The paragraph will be well structured and information flow will be clear, with few grammatical errors.

B. Reading Comprehension

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1. D | 9. one = analogy |
| 2. B | 10. this issue = that Lukoil has halted oil shipments to a refinery in Odessa, the Ukraine |
| 3. D | 11. they = markets |
| 4. D | 12. This = the fact that each pre-world war 1 incident may have led to war, but didn't, and the subsequent conclusion that Europe would always be able to draw back from the brink of war |
| 5. D | |
| 6. D | 13. its = Russia's |
| 7. A | |
| 8. D | |

C. Vocabulary

1. price fixing; 2. laissez-faire; 3. theocracy; 4. colluding; 5. insolvent