

A. Writing (12 points)

Describe and explain the graph (Figure 1). Use the information in Table 1 and the headlines from the *Financial Times* to help generate content. (200-250 words)

Figure 1: US passenger car sales: 2011, 2013, 2015, by type

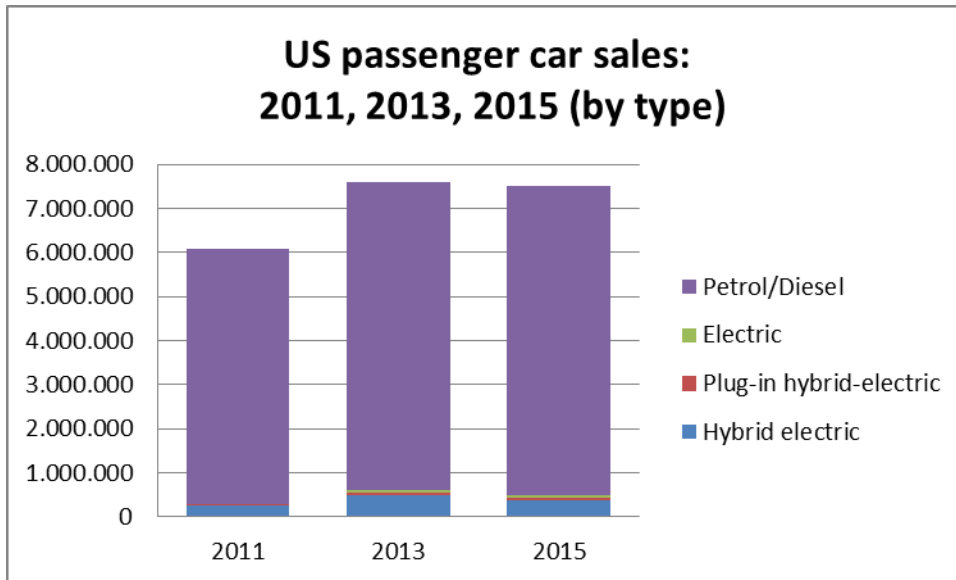


Table 1: US passenger car sales, 2011, 2013, 2015, by type (units and as a percentage of total sales)

	2011	%	2013	%	2015	%
Hybrid electric	268,807	4.41	495,534	6.53	384,404	5.11
Plug-in hybrid-electric	7,981	0.13	49,008	0.65	42,825	0.57
Electric	9,750	0.16	47,694	0.63	71,044	0.94
Petrol/Diesel	5,803,462	95.29	6,992,764	92.19	7,026,727	93.38

Headlines

- Smaller cars scale the US market (15 August 2011)
- GM and SAIC join forces on electric cars (20 September 2011)
- US rule set to slash car’s fuel use (12 August 2012)
- Honda becomes net exporter of cars from the US (28 January 2014)
- Electric car groups eye collaboration over charging technology (15 June 2014)
- Tesla to gamble on Nevada electric car plant (3 September 2014)
- Toyota bets on hydrogen technology (18 November 2014)
- Electro stations help Mexico’s anti-pollution drive (14 January 2015)
- Ford makes alternative fuel technology patents available (28 May 2015)
- [Crude oil from] Shale fuels US motoring revival (2 July 2015)
- Surge in China’s ‘green’ car sales hints at climate agenda (25 September 2015)
- Ford to spend \$4.5bn on electric car range (10 December 2015)

Your text will be marked on content, discourse organisation, range and appropriacy of vocabulary and structures, and grammatical accuracy.

B. Reading (6 points)

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

Recession, retrenchment, revolution? Impact of low crude prices on oil powers

In an unprecedented year for the oil business, each of the major producers has its own problems. How will they react?

Shaun Walker in Moscow, Dominic Rushe in New York, Chris Stein in Lagos, Chris Stephen in Tunis, Sibylla Brodzinsky in Caracas, Hugh Miles in Cairo, Saeed Kamali Dehghan and Larry Elliott Economics editors

1. A glut of oil, the demise of Opec and weakening global demand combined to make 2015 the year of crashing oil prices. The cost of crude fell to levels not seen for 11 years – and the decline may have further to go.

There have been four sharp increases in the price of oil in the past four decades – in 1973, 1979, 1990 and 2008 – and each has led to a global recession. By that measure, a lower oil price should be positive for the world economy, with lower fuel costs for consumers and businesses in those countries that import crude outweighing the losses to producing nations.

10. But the evidence since oil prices started falling from their peak of \$115 a barrel in August 2014 has not supported that thesis – or not yet. Oil producers have certainly felt the impact of the lower prices on their growth rates, their trade figures and their public finances but there has been no surge in consumer spending or business investment elsewhere.

15. Economists still reckon there will be a boost from a lower oil price particularly if it looks as if the lower cost of crude will be sustained.

Dhaval Joshi, an economist at BCA, a London-based research company, said: “A commodity bubble has deflated three times in the past 100 years: the first was after world war one; the second was after the 1980s oil shock; the third is happening right now.”

20. For the big producer countries, this is a major headache, the ramifications of which are only starting to be felt. Oil powers base their spending plans on an assumed crude price. Joshi says crude prices may fall by a further 35% to reach its long-term trend. That would mean an oil price closer to \$25 a barrel - and fiscal crises in some of the world’s most pivotal economies.

The Guardian, Wednesday 30 December 2015

Name:

Number:.....

B. Reading (cont.)

Based on the information in the text, say whether each statement is true (T) or false (F). Write your answers in the boxes. (0.5 points each correct answer)

1. The purpose of the article is to argue a point of view.
2. It is expected that crude oil prices will continue to fall.
3. In 2014 oil prices plunged in the second quarter.
4. According to the all text global recessions are caused by sharp increases in the price of oil.
5. In 2015 the world economy benefitted from low crude oil prices.
6. In the last quarter of 2014 and in 2015 oil exporters reported lower economic growth.
7. Dhaval Joshi believes that a commodity bubble was caused by the slump in oil prices in 2015.
8. In 2015 the sharp increase in consumer spending and business investment in oil importing economies was due to low oil prices.

Reference, substitution and ellipsis (0.4 points each)

What does each item (highlighted in the text) refer to? Write your answers here.

9. each (line 5)

10. that thesis (line 10)

11. their (line 11)

12. this (line 20)

13. That (line 23)

C. Vocabulary (2 points)

The following sentences were taken from *The Guardian*. Complete each sentence with the appropriate term. You may need to add a preposition or conjugate a verb. The first letter of the term and a paraphrase of its meaning are given to help you. All letters are in lower case. Write the answers below. (0.4 points each)

1. Increased population is bound to add to competition, even conflict, for **s.....** resources such as fresh water, farming land, minerals and wood. (rare, important)
2. The competition regulator has warned online traders against **p..... f.....** after finding evidence of collusion by sellers using internet. ([companies] agreeing to charge the same price as each other for similar products or services)
3. Adams said that the companies would be asked to pay the amount out **g.....**, as a percentage of their profits. (little by little)
4. The first graph shows how bed occupancy **f.....** during 2011-12, the year Dr Foster studied. (showed erratic behaviour)
5. But its [Facebook's] shares **d.....** from a record high in after-hours trading as investors showed some nervousness about future earnings. (decreased then increased)

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Answers

A. Writing

A good answer will describe the market share held by each car type for each year, compare values and/or market share and note trends over time. The paragraph will be clearly organised with appropriate language. For example descriptive lexis includes verbs such as *make up*, *account for*, *dip*, *decline*, *grow*, as well as their nominal forms. The register will be impersonal. It will avoid explicit authorial intervention (e.g. we can see), and instead use more complex nominal groups as Theme (e.g. The growth in sales of hybrid cars).

Content to explain the trends could include evidence based on

- Concerns related to climate change or pollution
- Increased investment in hybrid/electric technologies
- Low oil prices
- Economic recovery in the US.

B. Reading

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. False
6. True
7. False
8. False
9. each sharp increase in oil price
10. that a lower oil price should be positive for the world economy, with lower fuel costs for consumers and businesses in those countries that import crude outweighing the losses to producing nations
11. oil producers
12. the low oil prices
13. If crude prices fall by a further 35%

C. Vocabulary

1. scarce resources
2. price fixing
3. gradually
4. fluctuated
5. dipped