1. In each space put a/an or the, or leave the space blank.

| It has been announced that for (1) | third consecutive month there |
|---|--|
| has been (2) rise in (3) number of (4) | people unemployed, rather than (5) |
| fall that had been predicted. (6) rise was blame | ed on (7) continuing uncertainty over |
| (8) government economic policy, and couldn't | come at (9) worse time for (10) |
| Prime Minister, who is facing (11) growing critic | cism over (12) way (13) |
| present crisis is being handled. (14) MPs are | increasingly voicing (15) fears that |
| despite (16)recent devaluation of (17) | pound and cuts in (18)interest |
| rates, (19) government still expects (20) | recovery of the economy to take three or |
| even four years. To make (21) matters worse | , (22) number of small businesses |
| going into (23) liquidation is still at (24) | record level, and (25) housing |
| market is showing no signs of recovery. Some backbenchers expect (26) general | |
| election before (27) end of (28) winter | unless there is (29) rapid change of |
| (30) fortune. | |
| | |

2. Underline the most suitable option. A dash (-) means that no article is included.

- a) Helen doesn't like the/- cream cakes sold in a/the local bakery.
- b) **The/-** handball is fast becoming **a/the** popular sport worldwide.
- c) We could see that the/- Alps were covered in the/- snow.
- d) It's been a/- long time since I met a/- lovely person like you!
- e) Diana has a/- degree in the/- engineering from the/- University of London.
- f) At **the/-** present moment, **the/-** man seems to have **the/an** uncertain future.
- g) The/- problem for the/- today's students is how to survive financially,
- h) **The/-** French enjoy spending holidays in **the/-** countryside.
- i) Please do not turn on a/the water-heater in a/the bathroom.
- j) Sue bought a/the Picasso I was telling you about the/- last week.