

**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 blamed 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 criticism 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.