Russia’s transition to a democratic government and a market economy has not been easy. Russia has faced challenges to its political unity from ethnic groups that launched (1) separatist movements to break away from the national government and form independent countries. There also has been confusion over government powers. One example of this is the president’s power to issue (2) decrees. Many people believe these rulings give the president too much power.

To create a market economy, the Russian government introduced (3) privatization, which transferred ownership of businesses from the government to individuals. Under Soviet rule, Russian factories focused on (4) heavy industry, or the production of goods such as machinery, mining equipment, and steel. Today more Russian factories concentrate on (5) light industry, or the production of consumer goods such as clothing and household products. Some businesses have been able to make large profits, and a (6) middle class has emerged. This is a social group that is neither very rich nor poor but has enough money to buy cars and other luxuries. Other businesses could not compete and closed, putting many Russians out of work. To survive, some workers were forced to take jobs that required lesser skills than they have, which is called (7) underemployment. The problems caused by the transition to the new economic system have also made life difficult for (8) pensioners. These are people who receive regular payments...
payments from the government because they are too old or too sick to work.

Another problem that the government faces is that many Russians do not trust banks. To encourage people to put their money in banks, the government created a system that will repay people who deposit money in a bank if the bank goes out of business. This system is called (9) _______________. The government also has to deal with (10) _______________, a small group of corrupt business leaders and other powerful people who control various parts of the economy.