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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/127/2021_2022__E8_BE_85_E5_AF_BC_E3_80_8A_E7_c90_127580.htm Small country, big example Still an unusual success for democracy fingers crossed[1] ON March 5th, Benin went to the polls for the fourth presidential election since multi-party democracy was introduced in 1990: no mean achievement in west Africa. Even more impressive was the fact that President Mathieu K é r é kou did not stand for[2] re-election, nor did his great rival, Nic é phore Soglo, who was president from 1991-96. Both have passed the constitution ' s age l_____ of 70. (1) That respect for the constitution goes admirably against Africa ' s trend for heads of state to change the law to stay even longer in office. Benin has fewer than 8m people. It is one of the p_____ countries on earth. And yet, in Africa, it is also a democratic exemplar[3]. Many of Africa ' s former French colonies brought in multi-party democracy only when forced to by the French in return for more aid in June 1990. (2) Having abandoned Marxism, Mr K é r é kou, Benin ' s president and military ruler, not only legalised opposition parties several months before then, but also stood down[4] after his electoral defeat to Mr Soglo in 1991. So Benin became the first African country where an incumbent ran for re-election, lost and graciously bowed out[5]. Since then, d_____ has implanted itself strongly in the minds of Benin ' s citizens. “ Our history is so terrible, with coups and years of problems, that now we all care about democracy very

deeply, ” says one of them. NOTES : (LONGMAN) 1. keep ...fingers crossed希望能成功 , 如愿 to hope that something will happen the way you want e.g. We ' re keeping our fingers crossed that she ' s going to be OK.我们衷心希望她能一切都好。 Bingham is keeping his fingers crossed that Gray ' s withdrawal is the only one. 宾厄姆希望除了格雷没人会退出。 2. stand for (election) 做... (委员会、议会) 候选人 (British English) to try to become elected to a council, parliament etc [= run American English] e.g. She announced her intention to stand for Parliament.她宣布打算参加议会竞选。 3. exemplar 样板 , 模范 , 典范(exemplar of) a good or typical example e.g. Milt ' s career is an exemplar of survival in difficult times.米尔特的生涯可谓逆境生存的典范。 4. stand down 同意撤岗或停止竞选 , 给其他人机会 ; 引退 to agree to leave your position or to stop trying to be elected, so that someone else can have a chance [= step down American English] 5. bow out 由.....退出 , 从容引退 ; 不反悔(bow out of) 1) to stop taking part in an activity, job etc, especially one that you have been doing for a long time e.g. Reeves thinks it is time for him to bow out of politics.里夫斯觉得是时候告别政治舞台了。 2) to not do something that you have promised or agreed to do [= get out of] e.g. You ' re not trying to bow out of this, are you?你不会说话不算话吧 , 啊 ? 6. urn 瓮 , 茶水壶 , 骨灰盒 7. darkly 悲伤地 , 生气地 , 胁迫地 in a sad, angry, or threatening way: e.g. Fred scowled darkly at her.弗雷德恶狠狠地看着她。 8. take something at face value 不考虑内在含义而接受某种条件或听信别人的话 , 信以为真 to accept a situation or accept what someone says, without

thinking there may be a hidden meaning: e.g. You shouldn ' t always take his remarks at face value.你应该注意一下他的弦外之音。
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