

Social Studies

Topic 20: Equality and Democracy in Rwanda

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1. Choose the correct words from the list to fill the gaps in the text about **democracy**.

legal	citizens	independent	influence
vote	opinion	represent	elections

‘Government of the people, by the people, for the people.’

Democracy is a system of government in which people ^{a)} _____ in elections to choose the people who will lead them. This is a very important idea. In modern societies with large populations like Rwanda, everyone cannot give an ^{b)} _____ and decide on everything the government should do. So people choose someone to ^{c)} _____ their opinions in national and local government. This is called a representative democracy.

Rwanda has a representative democracy. This means that all ^{d)} _____ over the age of eighteen years can vote for people to represent them in the national and local government. The aim of democracy is to ensure that citizens can ^{e)} _____ political decisions. In order for democracy to work there must be free and fair ^{f)} _____.

There must also be a proper system of law. The ^{g)} _____ system supports the laws made by government. It is ^{h)} _____ of the political system but co-exists with it. Democracy can also be a system of running a business or organisation in which everyone can vote and share in decisions.

2. Use the information in the text about **types of democracy** to put a cross in the correct boxes in the table below. Write an example in the final row.

There are two types of democracy: direct and representative. In Rwanda there are both. The Akagari Councils are examples of direct democracy because everyone over eighteen can be a member. They do not have to be elected. They can attend meetings and say what they think about problems and development in their community. Very few countries have such a direct form of democratic government. The Akagari Councils also show how representative government works. The whole council elects an executive committee of ten people. This committee represents the whole council. These people make plans based on what was said in the whole council.

The rest of government in Rwanda is representative. All adults aged over eighteen choose people who act as councillors, Deputies or Senators in Parliament or as President. All of these represent the voters and make decisions for them. If the electors do not like the decisions of their representatives, they can vote for someone else at the next election. In a true democracy voters always have a choice. There is always more than one candidate, and more than one party to vote for.

	Direct democracy	Representative democracy
Everyone over 18 can vote for a member		
Everyone over 18 can be a member		
Members are not elected		
Members are elected		
Members represent the voters' views		
Everyone over 18 can express their views		
Example in Rwanda		

3. Put the sentences in the correct order to show **the stages in voting at elections**. Write your answers in the grid below.

1. At the polling station you get a paper with the names of the different candidates.
2. When there is a national election, you must first check that your name is on the voters' register.
3. The votes are counted.
4. Then you put the paper in a ballot box.
5. The ballot boxes are locked and taken to a public place in your province.
6. You mark the paper next to the candidates you prefer.
7. On election day you go to a polling station near where you live.

Write your answers here:

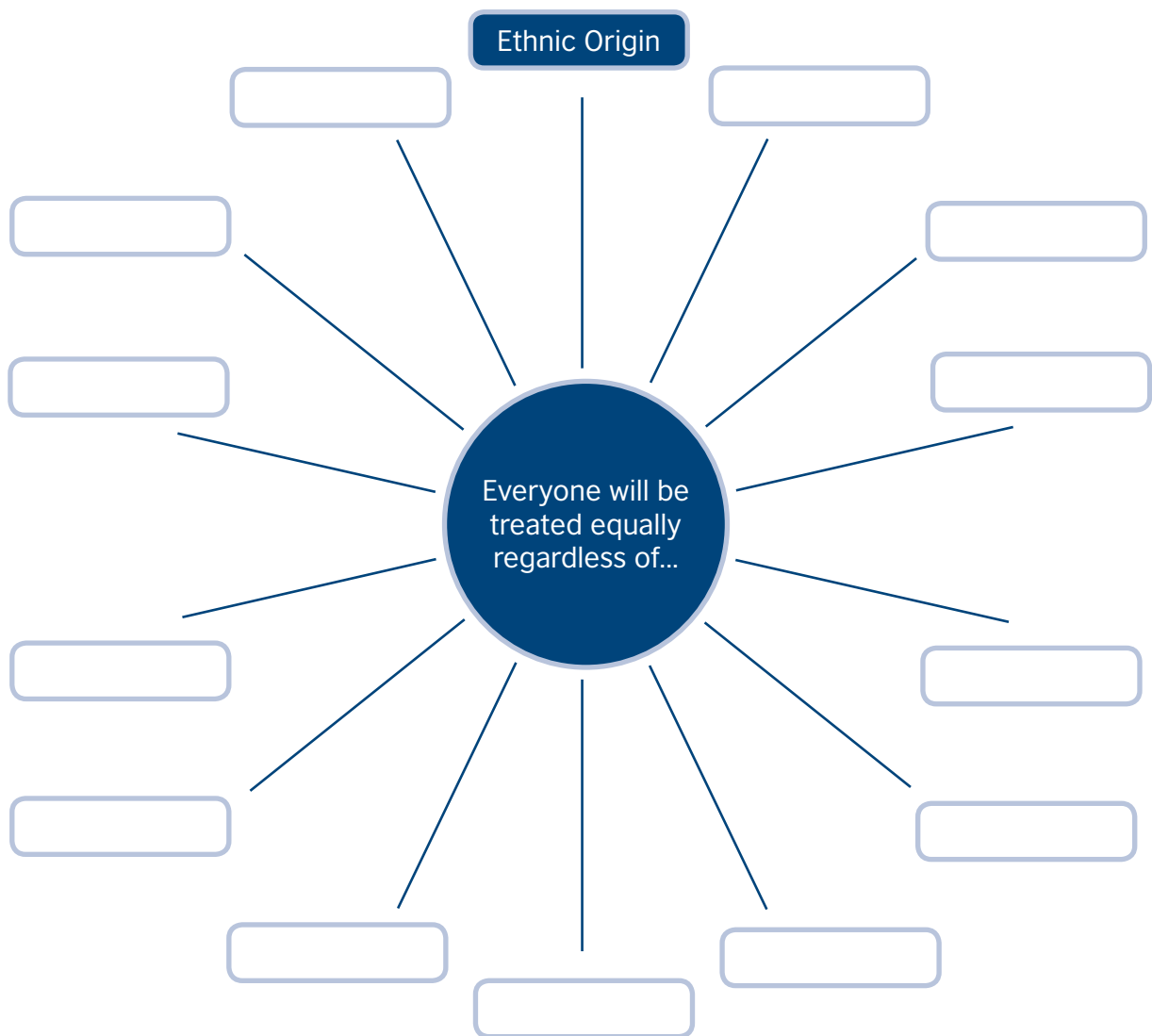
a)	b)	c)	d)	e)	f)	g)

4. Complete the words about **the Rwandan constitution**.

a)	'All citizens of Rwanda are equal' is one of the principles of the 2003 const _____ of Rwanda.
b)	Before the Constitution became law all Rwandan citizens and Rwandans living in other countries were given equal opport _____ to give their opinion on what the Constitution should say.
c)	Each province organised a public event for people to discuss propo _____ for a new Constitution.
d)	The Constitution states that power in Rwanda will be shared equally between the elected polit _____.
e)	Everyone over the age of eighteen has a rig _____ to vote.
f)	Everyone will be trea _____ equally regardless of individual differences between them.
g)	There will be equ _____ pay for equal work.
h)	People have the right to join tra _____ unions and to meet together to discuss things.

5. Find the thirteen words about **differences between people that the constitution recognises** in the list below and write them in the circles in the diagram. Five of the words in the list are not about differences.

candidate	executive	religion
clan	faith	sex
colour	language	social origin
culture	law	social status
disability	opinion	tribe
economic status	power	violence



6. Find the words to do with **equality and democracy** in the word search.

<p>A D I M M P E D H N O C I I R A</p> <p>G Z E E S G F C I T I Z E N A S</p> <p>O A P M E P T E E L V P W F O Z</p> <p>V S H B V C H N P E E O U L R E</p> <p>E N D E E C N F N G Z L T U D F</p> <p>R E P R E S E N T A T I V E X E</p> <p>N Q I S S Q B E Y L M T N N R H</p> <p>M D S F E K A C R T E I O C S E</p> <p>E G C M L W A S R A S C A E Q G</p> <p>N P C J E R S E M T T A O F L E</p> <p>T N C O C P Y Z S S S L T E D C</p> <p>H O V O T E H S I W H P G T D T</p> <p>V N M F I O M P A S C D J A R H</p> <p>A E D A O D S L P S I L L N H S</p> <p>D O P I N I O N G E F J C G C R</p> <p>E S W R E G Q V B R P S E W I B</p>	<p>citizen</p> <p>democracy</p> <p>direct</p> <p>election</p> <p>fair</p> <p>government</p> <p>influence</p> <p>law</p> <p>legal</p> <p>member</p> <p>opinion</p> <p>political</p> <p>representative</p> <p>vote</p> <p>voter</p>
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7. Put the words in the correct order to make sentences about **democracy in Rwanda**.

a)	local councils	gives everyone	in choosing	equal rights	and national government.	Democracy
Correct sentence:						
b)	their government,	not just to one group.	When all the people	belongs to them,	have elected	that government
Correct sentence:						
c)	so they cannot	When there are	overnments can be changed	with several political parties,	regular elections	take power for ever.
Correct sentence:						

d)	one party	Rwanda has had times	Like many other	in which there was only	to vote for.	African countries,
Correct sentence:						
e)	There is	true democracy	no real choice	when there is	only one party.	and no
Correct sentence:						
f)	the only group	to change the government.	because the army is	This situation has often led to	a military takeover,	strong enough
Correct sentence:						
g)	more than one	Our constitution states	and that	all electors are equal.	that there will be	political party
Correct sentence:						
h)	the many problems	have brought to Africa.	and military dictatorships	The constitution	will help us to avoid	that one party states
Correct sentence:						

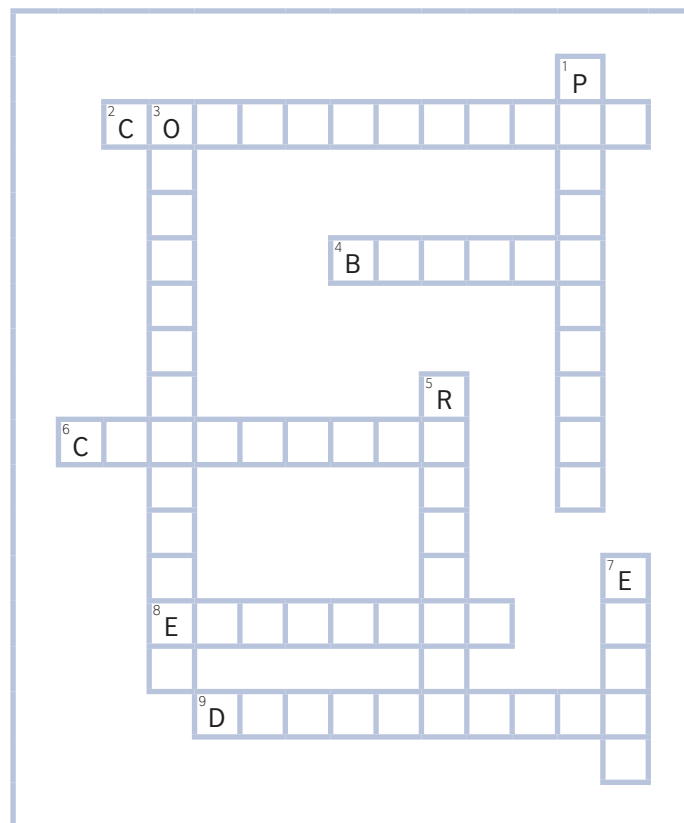
8. Complete the crossword by answering the following questions. All the correct answers are words about **equality and democracy**.

Across

2. A set of basic laws for a country that describe the rights and duties of its citizens and the way in which it is governed.
4. A secret vote to decide about an issue or to decide who wins an election.
6. One of the people competing in an election.
8. The state of being equal, especially in having the same rights, status, and opportunities.
9. Based on the principle that all people are equal and should be able to share in making decisions.

Down

1. Someone who has a job in politics.
3. A chance to do something.
5. An official list or record of a particular type of thing.
7. To choose someone by voting so that they represent you.



Glossary

act for	/ækt fɔ:(r)/ [I] if you act for someone, you do something as their representative: <i>Lawyers acting for the family will issue a statement this morning.</i>
attend	/ə'tend/ verb [I/T] to be present at an event or activity: <i>Everyone in the office was expected to attend the meeting.</i>
ballot	/'bælət/ noun [C] a secret vote to decide about an issue or to decide who wins an election.
ballot box	/'bælət bɒks/ noun [C] a box in which you put your voting paper after you have voted.
bias	/'baɪəs/ noun [S/U] an attitude that you have that makes you treat someone in a way that is unfair or different from the way you treat other people: <i>Ideally we'd choose judges who are without political bias.</i>
candidate	/'kændɪdeɪt/ noun [C] one of the people competing in an election: <i>the Labour/ Liberal/ Conservative candidate.</i>
citizen	/'sɪtɪz(ə)n/ noun [C] someone who has the right to live permanently in a particular country and has the right to the legal and social benefits of that country as well as legal obligations towards it: <i>She married an American and became a US citizen.</i>
clan	/klæn/ noun [C] a large group of families that are related to each other: <i>the Stewart clan.</i>
colour	/'kʌlə(r)/ noun [C/U] the skin complexion of a person as a sign of their ethnic origin: <i>people of all creeds and colours.</i>
constitution	/'kɒnstɪ'tju:(ə)n/ noun [C] a set of basic laws or principles for a country that describe the rights and duties of its citizens and the way in which it is governed: <i>The US Constitution guarantees freedom of the press.</i>
council	/'kaʊns(ə)l/ noun [C] the elected officials who govern a local area such as a city or county: <i>a member of the city council.</i>
decide on	/dɪ'saɪd ɒn/ phrasal verb [T] to choose someone or something from a number of possible choices: <i>We decided on Spain for our holiday this year. decide on a policy.</i>
democracy	/dɪ'mɒkrəsi/ noun [U] a system of government in which people vote in elections to choose the people who will govern them: <i>the transition towards democracy. A threat to democracy.</i>
democratic	/'dema'krætɪk/ adj based on the principle that all people are equal and should be able to share in making decisions: <i>a democratic organization.</i>
dictatorship	/dɪk'tetə(r)ʃɪp/ noun [C/U] government by someone who takes power by force and does not allow elections.
direct democracy	/dɪ'rekt dɪ'mɒkrəsi/ phrase a democracy in which the power to govern lies directly in the hands of the people rather than being exercised through their representatives.
disability	/'dɪsə'bɪləti/ noun [C/U] a condition in which someone is not able to use a part of their body or brain properly, for example because of an injury: <i>children with learning disabilities.</i>
discontent	/'dɪskən'tent/ noun [U] the unhappy feeling that you have when you are not satisfied with something: <i>Public discontent with the government is growing.</i>
disqualify	/dɪs'kwɒlɪfaɪ/ verb [T] [often passive] to not allow someone to take part in a competition, or to force them to leave it, usually because they have done something that is not allowed by the rules: <i>disqualify someone from the right to vote.</i>
elect	/ɪ'lekt/ verb [T] to choose someone by voting so that they represent you or hold an official position: <i>Every nation should have a right to elect its own government.</i>
equal	/'i:kwəl/ adj having or deserving the same rights and opportunities as other people: <i>He believed that all men and women were equal. They are equal partners in every aspect of their lives.</i>
equal pay	/'i:kwəl peɪ/ noun [U] the right of two people doing the same job to be paid the same amount of money, whatever their sex or race.

equality	/ɪ'kwɒləti/ noun [U] the state of being equal, especially in having the same rights, status, and opportunities: <i>The Party is committed to sexual and racial equality. Countless people have died trying to achieve basic equality for women.</i>
ethnic	/ˈeθnik/ adj relating to a group of people who have the same culture and traditions: <i>The country's population consists of three main ethnic groups.</i>
executive	/ɪg'zekjʊtɪv/ adj having the power to make important decisions in an organization or government: <i>He is a member of the executive committee.</i>
faith	/feɪθ/ noun [U] belief in a god or gods: <i>Religious faith expresses itself in a variety of forms.</i>
human rights	/ˈhju:mən raɪts/ noun [P] the rights that everyone should have in a society, including the right to express opinions about the government or to have protection from harm: <i>We must continue to stand up for human rights.</i>
inequality	/ˌɪnɪ'kwɒləti/ noun [C/U] a situation in which people are not equal because some groups have more opportunities, power, money etc than others: <i>Policies aimed at eliminating poverty, unemployment, and social inequality</i>
join	/dʒɔɪn/ verb [T] to become a member of an organization, club etc: <i>I'm thinking of joining a choir. He wants to join the army.</i>
law	/lɔ:/ noun [C] an official rule that people must obey: <i>The new law will be passed by Parliament in the spring. Several traffic laws had been broken.</i>
lead	/li:d/ verb [T] to be in control of an organization, group of people, or activity: <i>She led the software development team during the project.</i>
legal	/ˈli:ɡ(ə)l/ adj relating to the law or lawyers: <i>You may wish to seek legal advice before signing the contract. China's legal system.</i>
make plan	/meɪk plæn/ phrase to formulate a scheme or program for the accomplishment, enactment, or attainment of something
meeting	/ˈmi:tɪŋ/ noun [C] an occasion when people gather to discuss things and make decisions: <i>They organized meetings on a number of important political issues. A meeting was held to discuss our future.</i>
member	/ˈmembə(r)/ noun [C] someone who belongs to a club, organization, or group: <i>a trade union member. member of the council/parliament.</i>
opportunity	/ˌɒpə(r)'tju:nəti/ noun [C/U] a chance to do something, or a situation in which it is easy for you to do something: <i>I think this trip sounds like a wonderful opportunity. The company will continue to provide equal opportunity in its promotion scheme.</i>
origin	/ˈɒrɪdʒɪn/ noun [C] the place or moment where something begins to exist: <i>Meteorites may hold clues about the origin of life on Earth. The country's constitution had its origins in Roman law.</i>
parliament	/ˈpɑ:(r)ləmənt/ noun [C] an official elected group of people in some countries who meet to make the laws of the country and discuss national issues: <i>the Russian parliament.</i>
party	/ˈpɑ:(r)ti/ noun [C] an organized group of people who have similar ideas about the way in which a country should be governed, and who work together to try to persuade people to vote for them in elections: <i>the two main political parties.</i>
politician	/ˌpɒlə'tɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [C] someone who has a job in politics, especially a member of parliament.
polling station	/ˈpɒlɪŋ'steɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [C] a building where people go to vote in an election.
power	/ˈpaʊə(r)/ noun [C/U] political control of a country or government: <i>The plan aims to strengthen governmental powers. The ruling Social Democratic party has been in power for ten years.</i>
race	/reɪs/ noun [C/U] a group of people who are similar because they have the same skin colour or other physical features: <i>We do not discriminate on the basis of race or gender.</i>
register	/ˈredʒɪstə(r)/ noun [C] an official list or record of a particular type of thing: <i>register of voters. the register of births, deaths, and marriages.</i>

represent	/ˌrepriˈzent/ verb [T] to speak or act officially for another person, group, or organization: <i>Ambassador Albright will represent the United States at the ceremony.</i>
representative democracy	/ˌrepriˈzentətɪv dɪˈmɒkrəsi/ phrase a form of government founded on the principle of elected individuals representing the people.
right	/raɪt/ noun [C] something that you are morally or legally allowed to do or have: <i>After the way you've been treated, you have every right to complain. You have no right to come barging in here like that.</i>
secret	/ˈsiːkrət/ adj the secret ballot is a voting method in which a voter's choices in an election or a referendum are confidential.
share	/ʃeə(r)/ verb [T] to use or to have something at the same time as someone else: <i>Do you mind sharing a table? Share power.</i>
status	/ˈstetəs/ noun [C/U] someone's position in a profession or society, especially compared with other people: <i>Our organization seeks to improve the social status of disabled people.</i>
take power	/teɪk ˈpaʊə(r)/ phrase assume power, take control.
takeover	/ˈteɪk.əʊvə(r)/ noun [C/U] an act of taking control of a country or organization by an army, group etc, especially by force: <i>Accusations of corruption against the government resulted in a military takeover.</i>
trade union	/treɪd ˈjuːnjən/ noun [C] an organization of workers that aims to improve pay and conditions of work. Trade unions are often simply called unions.
treat	/tri:t/ verb [T] to behave towards someone in a particular way: <i>She felt she had been unfairly treated, and complained to her boss. You should treat others politely.</i>
tribe	/traɪb/ noun [C] a large group of related families who live in the same area and share a common language, religion, and customs: <i>Native American tribes. the Makah tribe.</i>
trustworthy	/ˈtrʌs(t)wɜː(r)ði/ adj able to be trusted as being honest, safe, or reliable.
violence	/ˈvaɪələns/ noun [U] violent behaviour: <i>He had endured years of intimidation and violence. An act of senseless violence.</i>
vote	/vəʊt/ verb [I] to show your choice of a person or an issue in an election: <i>I've already voted.</i>
voter	/ˈvəʊtə(r)/ noun [C] someone who votes in an election: <i>Their policies have alienated many women voters. Voters went to the polls today to elect a new president.</i>

Key:

1.a) vote, b) opinion, c) represent, d) citizens, e) influence, f) elections, g) legal, h) independent

2.

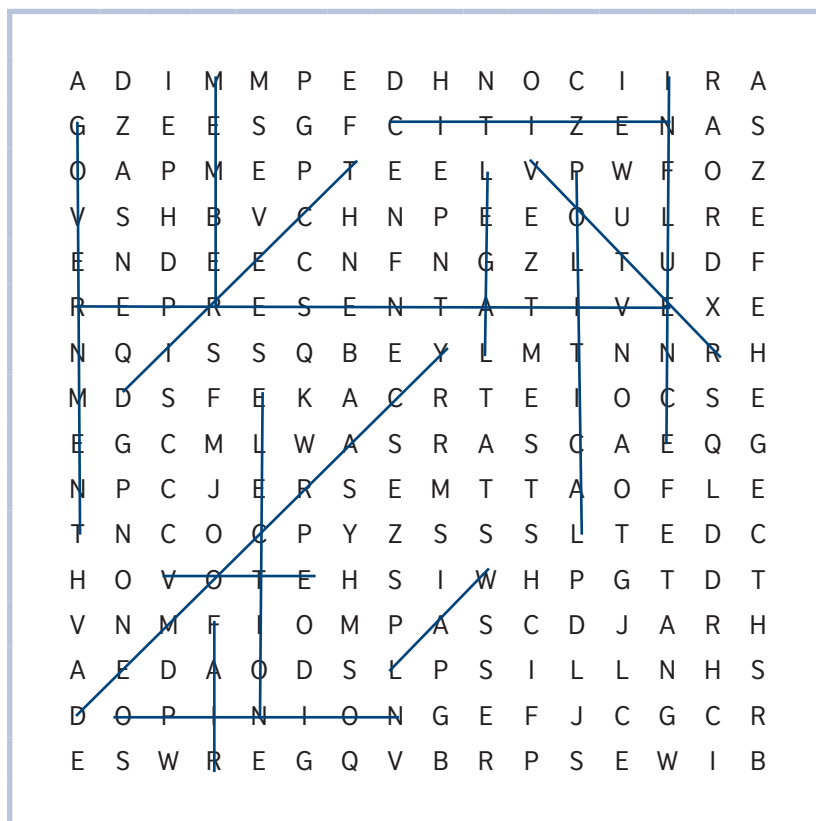
	Direct democracy	Representative democracy
Everyone over 18 can vote for a member		x
Everyone over 18 can be a member	x	
Members are not elected	x	
Members are elected		x
Members represent the voters' views		x
Everyone over 18 can express their views	x	
Example in Rwanda	Akagari council	Parliament

3. a) 3, b) 1, c) 7, d) 5, e) 6, f) 4

4. a) constitution, b) opportunity, c) proposals, d) politicians, e) right, f) treated, g) equal, h) trade

5. tribe, clan, colour, sex, religion, faith, social origin, opinion, economic status, culture, language, social status, disability; Other words: candidate; executive; law; power; violence

6.



7.

- a) Democracy gives everyone equal rights in choosing local councils and national government.
- b) When all the people have elected their government, that government belongs to them, not just to one group.
- c) When there are regular elections with several political parties, governments can be changed so they cannot take power for ever.
- d) Like many other African countries, Rwanda has had times in which there was only one party to vote for.
- e) There is no real choice and no true democracy when there is only one party.
- f) This situation has often led to a military takeover, because the army is the only group strong enough to change the government.
- g) Our constitution states that there will be more than one political party and that all electors are equal.
- h) The constitution will help us to avoid the many problems that one party states and military dictatorships have brought to Africa.

8. **Across:** 2. constitution, 4. ballot, 6. candidate, 8. equality, 9. democratic; **Down:** 1. politician, 3. opportunities, 5. register, 7. elect