Name _____

Context Switchboard

Directions: Read each mini excerpt. Use context clues to choose the correct meaning of the **bold** multiple-meaning word. Circle the letter of the best meaning (A, B, C, or D).

1. History seminar: "The senator tried to **table** the proposal until after the election, arguing that the timing was irresponsible."

   A. to set a table for a meal
   B. to present formally for discussion
   C. to remove from an official record
   D. to postpone consideration

2. Biology lab: "After incubation, we observed bacterial **cultures** forming distinct patterns on the agar plate."

   A. traditions and customs of a group
   B. growth of microorganisms in a controlled environment
   C. appreciation for the arts
   D. a refined way of speaking

3. Literature essay: "The author's recurring storm imagery serves as a **charge** against the complacency of the characters."

   A. an accusation or claim
   B. the price of admission
   C. electrical energy stored in an object
   D. to rush forward

4. Economics article: "The central bank raised the interest rate to **check** inflation, even though it might slow hiring."

   A. to look over briefly
   B. to restrain or stop
   C. a pattern of squares
   D. a restaurant bill

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5. Physics lecture: "Before graphing, isolate each variable and hold the others **constant**."

   A. unchanging

   B. loyal and dependable

   C. repeated often

   D. continuing loudly

6. Theatre review: "The actor held a tense **beat** before answering, and the audience leaned in."

   A. to defeat someone

   B. a steady rhythm in music

   C. a short pause for effect

   D. a defined area covered by police

7. Journalism class: "The editor wanted a stronger **lead** because the first paragraph did not hook readers."

   A. a heavy metal

   B. to guide or direct

   C. a clue in an investigation

   D. the opening section that introduces a story

8. Chemistry report: "When the solution turned cloudy, we added the reagent drop by drop to **precipitate** the salt."

   A. to cause something to happen suddenly

   B. to fall from the sky as rain or snow

   C. to cause a solid to form from a solution

   D. to criticize harshly

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