VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Get a Clue

Paying attention to context can help you infer the meanings of challenging words you encounter in texts. Use context clues in this excerpt from the article "What's at Stake" to figure out the meanings of the boldfaced words and phrases.

Very little about the 2016 election has gone as expected. Few thought Donald Trump, a billionaire real estate **mogul** and reality TV star with a penchant for insulting opponents and shocking the public, could defeat 17 other Republicans to win his party's nomination.

And no one would have guessed that Democrat Hillary Clinton—a former first lady, senator, and secretary of state trying to become the nation's first female president—would face a bruising primary fight against Bernie Sanders, a largely unknown senator and self-described socialist.

With Trump and Clinton now set to square off in November, the one thing **pundits** can say for sure is that many Americans are deeply frustrated with the **status quo**. Two-thirds of those surveyed in recent polls believe the nation is on the wrong track and 80 percent disapprove of the way Congress is doing its job.

The challenge for voters will be to look beyond the campaign's circus-like atmosphere and weigh the candidates' very different visions for the nation.

1.
PART A:

The word *mogul* most nearly means ___.

a a longtime politician

b a political poll

c a powerful and successful person

d a heated contest

PART B:

Which word or phrase from the article provides the best support for the answer to Part A?

a "billionaire"

b "insulting opponents"

c "shocking the public"

d "reality TV"

2.
PART A:

The word *pundits* most nearly means ___.

a candidates for public office

b experts who give opinions on a topic

c notable achievements

d young and enthusiastic voters

PART B:

Which word or phrase from the article provides the best support for the answer to Part A?

a "set to square off"

b "deeply frustrated"

c "circus-like atmosphere"

d "can say for sure"

3.
PART A:

The phrase *status quo* most nearly means ___.

a an ongoing battle

b a person's background or experience

c the time when something began

d the existing state of affairs

PART B:

Which word or phrase from the article provides the best support for the answer to Part A?

a "the challenge for voters"

b "many Americans"

c "believe the nation is on the wrong track"

d "surveyed in recent polls"

GOING FURTHER **Use context to explore these additional words from the article.**

4. **Infer the meaning of the word *contempt* on p. 8. Then answer the question.**

Meaning: _____

What's something you might have *contempt* for? _____

5. **Infer the meaning of the word *sway* on p. 9. Then use the word in an original sentence.**

Meaning: _____

Sentence: _____