

# PUNCTUATION DRILL

Time: 7 minutes

Questions 1–11 are based on the following passage.

## Cold Process Soap-Making: A Traditional Process is Cool Again

Commercial soaps are traditionally made **1** with harsh, irritating chemicals and weaker fragrances, **2** both were initially rejected by consumers and artisans. However, as research presented the benefits of consistent hand-washing, these cheaper products gained popularity. Ingredient shortages during wartime—especially World War I and World War **3** II led to the development of synthetic detergents that were used instead of soap made with natural ingredients. Commercial soaps relied less on animal byproducts, hard to find during rationing, and incorporated vegetable-based fats. Today, some artisans have returned to the historic roots of the **4** craft; but hobbyists are making their own soap out of natural ingredients through the cold process method.

**1**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) with harsh, irritating, chemicals,
- C) with, harsh irritating chemicals,
- D) with harsh irritating chemicals—

**2**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) both of which
- C) of whom both
- D) both of them

**3**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) II,
- C) II;
- D) II—

**4**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) craft, therefore,
- C) craft,
- D) craft, and

Through the cold process **5** method; (which utilizes an exothermic chemical reaction called saponification), fatty acids react with a base to produce glycerol. The cold process method requires knowledge of how to safely work with lye (a caustic metal hydroxide that can burn skin), since the base can have harmful **6** effects. As experts suggest using gloves, goggles, and protective clothing to ensure safety. To create soap using this method, soap-makers heat oils to about 100 degrees Fahrenheit, then mix lye and water into the oils until the mixture thickens. Fragrant essential oils, dyes, scouring agents, and emollients, such as sand, oatmeal, and milk, are then added to the mixture. The mixture is then poured into a mold to harden for 24 hours and cure for four to six weeks. Once cured, the mixture is cut into **7** bars and packaged as soap.

**5**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) method, which
- C) method (which
- D) method which

**6**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) effects; as
- C) effects:
- D) effects,

**7**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) bars and packaged (as soap).
- C) bars—and packaged as soap.
- D) bars, and packaged, as soap.

The cold process method has many benefits, but it also has a few challenges. There are issues that can arise throughout the process. When done correctly, the cold process method can produce creamier soaps with more intense fragrances, colors, and lathers, but when the solution is overmixed, the **8** “trace,” or point when the lye and oils reach complete emulsification, is surpassed. This can cause the mixture to seize up and become too thick to work with or generate air bubbles. Improper temperatures or humidity levels can cause cracks to develop within the mold. Fragrance oils can cause separation of ingredients or grainy textures in the soap.

One successful soap-maker who has relied on traditional methods is Bindu Chopra. In 2015, she created a skin-care company that creates homemade soaps with the goal of providing affordable and natural products to customers. The **9** companys products utilize ingredients that remind Chopra of her childhood and emphasize the beauty of darker skin.

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) “trace” or point when the lye and oils reach complete emulsification,
- C) “trace” or point, when the lye and oils reach, complete emulsification
- D) “trace” or, point, when the lye and oils reach complete emulsification

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) companys’ product’s
- C) company’s products’
- D) company’s products

Using traditional methods is not always easy: Chopra’s methods require more time and initial effort, and she sometimes faces **10** criticism from other companies and consumers who doubt that the natural ingredients are worth the extra cost. Despite this feedback, Chopra continues to develop her company and is not afraid to experiment with different combinations of ingredients in her **11** products; such as essential oils with strong fragrances, coffee beans, and walnut shells to exfoliate skin. According to Chopra, “Nothing beats homemade products.”

**10**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) criticism–
- C) criticism;
- D) criticism,

**11**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) products. Such as
- C) products, included with these were
- D) products, such as