

## • Beginning Critical Reading – Soaps and Detergents

Soaps and detergents are used for washing. Soaps and detergents are used for cleaning. People usually use detergent to wash clothes. People usually use detergent to wash dishes. People usually use soap to wash their bodies.

- 5 Soap has a long history. There was soap in Ancient Babylon. There was soap in Ancient Egypt. Some people think there was soap before people wrote history.

Soap and detergent are similar, but soap and detergent are not exactly the same. Soaps are made of natural products. Detergents are made of man-made products.

- 10 In some cases, soap is better than detergent. For example, soap is milder on the skin. Soap is milder on the environment. Soap is biodegradable – nature's processes clean soap up. Soap does not build up in rivers. Soap does not cause pollution in rivers. Soap does not build up in streams. Soap does not cause pollution in streams.

- 15 In some cases, detergent is better than soap. For example, soap builds up in clothes after many washings. Detergent does not build up in clothes after many washings. Soap loses its cleaning power in clothes over time. Detergent does not lose its cleaning power in clothes over time.

## Questions

1. According to the passage, which of the following statements is/are true?

- I) Soap is made of natural or man-made products.
- II) Detergents are less mild than soaps.
- III) Detergent washes out of clothing.
- IV)

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) III only
- D) I and II only
- E) II and III only

2. What is the main idea of the fifth paragraph?

- A) How soaps and detergents are made
- B) What soap and detergent are used for
- C) Which product causes less pollution
- D) How soap loses its cleaning power
- E) When detergent is better than soap

3. In line 9, *biodegradable* most closely means

- A) man-made
- B) dangerous
- C) permanent
- D) easy to clean up
- E) hard to clean up