

For use with "The Real Cost of Cheap Fashion" on p. 8 of the magazine

## The Real Cost of Cheap Fashion

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions. For the analysis section, refer to the article as needed.

### CHECK COMPREHENSION

1. As a result of the "fast fashion" trend, global clothing production has
  - a declined significantly since 2010.
  - b tripled since 2000.
  - c shifted back to the U.S.
  - d none of the above
  
2. Why did U.S. clothing production begin moving overseas in the 1970s?
  - a Nations overseas had more consumers to purchase clothing.
  - b Workers overseas were more skilled at manufacturing clothes.
  - c Factories overseas had lower labor costs.
  - d Companies could not find enough American workers to work in clothing factories.
  
3. Many companies pledged to improve garment factory conditions in 2013, after
  - a profits for clothing retailers began to drop suddenly.
  - b garment workers in China and Bangladesh went on strike.
  - c a fire destroyed the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York City.
  - d a clothing factory collapsed in Bangladesh.
  
4. According to the article, why is the manufacture of polyester clothing bad for the environment?
  - a Growing polyester requires pesticides.
  - b Polyester cannot be reused or recycled.
  - c The material is made from petroleum, and the manufacturing process releases dangerous gases.
  - d none of the above

### ANALYZE THE TEXT

5. Which choice best summarizes the article?
  - a Many low-cost clothes are made by factory workers laboring for low pay and under poor conditions.
  - b American shoppers spend more on clothing than they did in the past.
  - c China's factories are starting to offer safer conditions and higher pay.
  - d About 2 percent of the clothes sold in America were made in America.
  
6. The article suggests that the fast fashion phenomenon
  - a is mostly harmless.
  - b began within the past two decades.
  - c is illegal in the U.S. and many other countries.
  - d is quickly coming to an end.
  
7. Which excerpt from the article provides the best evidence for the answer to question 6?
  - a "Fast fashion also hurts the environment."
  - b "Fast fashion items may not cost you much at the cash register, but they come with a serious price."
  - c "Workers often earn just a few dollars a day. Many are women in their teens."
  - d "Chains . . . first popularized fast fashion in the early 2000s."
  
8. You can reasonably infer from the article that a lot of fast fashion items are
  - a quickly discarded.
  - b overpriced by retailers.
  - c made from organic fabrics.
  - d actually very durable.

**IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS** Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

10. What do you think could be done to reduce the amount of clothing in landfills?

**CITE TEXT EVIDENCE**

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## Find the Evidence

After reading "The Real Cost of Cheap Fashion," consider each question below. Use the organizer to record evidence from the text and to note where you found the evidence.

QUESTION:	EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT:	LOCATION (PAGE, COLUMN):
<p>1. What does the author mean when she notes that fast fashion items "come with a serious price"?</p>		
<p>2. Why do most U.S. clothing makers manufacture their merchandise overseas?</p>		
<p>3. What kinds of improvements have been made recently in conditions at some garment factories outside the U.S.?</p>		
<p>4. What is meant by the expression "ethically made clothing"?</p>		

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**CENTRAL IDEAS & KEY DETAILS**

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## Organizing Ideas

Tracking central ideas and key details can help you navigate the complexity of a nonfiction text. After reading "The Real Cost of Cheap Fashion," fill in the blank sections below to provide a full picture of the information presented in the article.

\_\_\_\_\_

The actual cost of producing cheap fashion:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Changes made because of the Rana Plaza factory accident:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Despite the changes to factories, problems still exist:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**ON YOUR OWN:** The last paragraphs of "The Real Cost of Cheap Fashion" discuss different ways companies are attempting to produce more sustainably made clothing. However, the public is largely unaware of these initiatives. Write an essay to your peers arguing that wearing ethically made clothing is a better choice than fast fashion, even if it costs more. Use evidence from the article to support this claim and to build a counterclaim, arguing the opposite.



**CARTOON ANALYSIS**

For use with "The Real Cost of Cheap Fashion" on p. 8 of the magazine



PATRICK CHAPPATTE • CAGLE CARTOONS.COM

**Analyze the Political Cartoon**

(Cartoon also appears on p. 10 of the magazine.)

1. Where does the scene in this cartoon take place? What is the woman doing?
2. What details do you notice about the label? What do the "sweat" and "blood" refer to?
3. What message do you think the cartoonist is sending about working conditions in clothing factories in poor countries?
4. Do you think that American companies and consumers have a responsibility to the workers in other countries who manufacture our clothing?

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