

Illustration: Akshra Rana, XI A and Nandini Bora, IX A, AIS Gurugram 43



Perfume is more than a scent - it's chemistry, artistry, and centuries of tradition captured in a bottle. Each spritz blends natural oils, carefully crafted molecules, and layered notes to evoke memories, moods, and identities. Join **Parmeshi Juneja, AIS Gurugram 43, XI B**, on an enchanting journey through fragrance.

What makes a perfume?

Perfume is a precise blend of natural extracts, synthetic notes, alcohol or oils, and fixatives, each adding structure, depth, fragrance, and longevity.



How perfume comes to life?

Step 1: Extracting essential oils- Methods include steam distillation, boiling, solvent extraction, enfleurage, maceration, and expression (pressing citrus peels).

Step 2: Blending- Master perfumers, known as 'noses,' combine natural and synthetic components using formulae perfected over years.

Step 3: Ageing- Blends rest for months to years, allowing notes to mature and harmonise.

Step 4: Finishing- Filtering → bottling → ingredient checks → safety testing.



The soul of scent

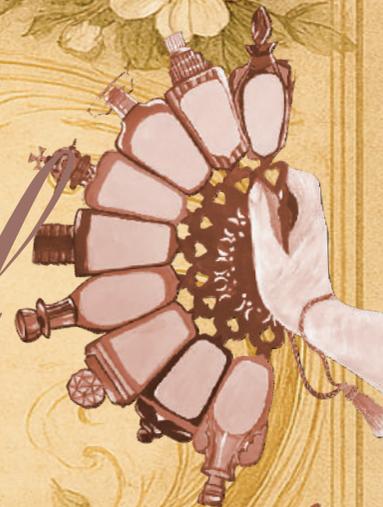
What they are: Oils from plants, woods, fruits, resins, and historically, even animals.

Purpose: Add richness and authenticity.

Examples: Vanilla, cinnamon, cedar, agarwood, myrrh, rose, chamomile, lemon, and orange.



The art of perfumery



The invisible anchors

Fixatives slow time inside a perfume, allowing it to stay.

Natural fixatives: Patchouli, oakmoss, beeswax, myrrh.

Exalting fixatives: Vanilla, Peru balsam.
Process fixatives: Support extraction, blending, and stability.

They do not announce themselves but without them, a fragrance would disappear too soon.

The medium matters

Alcohol-based fragrances
Evaporate quickly
Project strongly

Oil-based fragrances
Diffuse slowly
Sit closer to the skin
Linger longer, deeper

Common carriers include:
ethanol, benzyl alcohol,
eugenol, and botanical oils



The dreamers

What they are: Lab-created scent molecules used when nature is limited or unavailable.

Purpose: Provide consistency, creativity, and new fragrances never found in nature.

Examples: Ethyl maltol, coumarin, ambroxan, calone, and aldehydes.



The three acts

Perfume notes are categorised into top, heart, and base notes, which unfold over time, enriching the fragrance experience.

Top notes | 0-15 minutes | Light, bright, and attention-grabbing

Heart notes | 15 minutes - 4 hours | Define personality; it forms the core of the fragrance.

Base notes | 4 - 8+ hours | Deep, long-lasting foundation; emerges in the dry-down.

