Class 9 English Kaveri – Chapter 7

Carrier of Words & Words

IMPORTANT QUESTION ANSWERS • CBSE 2026–27

Exam-focused questions and student-friendly answers based on the uploaded Kaveri Chapter 7 textbook.

A. Carrier of Words – Important Questions

1. Who is Khetaram and what is his role?

Khetaram is a Gramin Dak Sewak (GDS) and the sole postman of Somarad Branch Post Office. For many years, he has served as a link between the people of the remote Rajasthani village and their families living far away. He carries mail to far-flung hamlets and also reads letters and drafts replies for villagers.

2. Why is Khetaram's work particularly difficult?

Khetaram works in the harsh Thar desert, beyond the last railhead, telephone connection and usable road. Soft sand makes travel difficult, and he often has to walk long distances carrying his mailbag. Extreme summer heat, scorching winds and sandstorms add to the physical challenges.

3. Why does Khetaram sometimes postpone his deliveries until after sundown?

The desert can become extremely hot during the day. When the heat becomes severe, it can be unsafe and exhausting for Khetaram to continue walking. Therefore, he sometimes postpones his deliveries until after sundown.

4. Why does Khetaram say that water is too precious to waste on washing?

He works in an extremely arid desert region where water is scarce. After completing his work, he can only wipe his body because water is too valuable to use for washing.

5. Why are Gramin Dak Sewaks described as invaluable?

GDS workers serve remote areas that are often inaccessible by means other than walking. They provide an important communication link between isolated communities and the rest of the country. Khetaram's work illustrates how they continue to deliver mail despite difficult geographical conditions.

6. How was the purpose of India Post different from that of the British postal system?

The British postal system in India was established mainly to relay company dak between administrative centres. After independence, the mandate of India Post became broader: it aimed to bring the entire population within the mailing network and extend postal services to people across the country.

7. Why did Khetaram take up this challenging job?

Khetaram explains that famine is a way of life in his region. Even in a good agricultural year, he may get only one crop of bajra, which cannot feed his family of five. Without his job, his family would struggle to survive, so the assured income from his GDS work is very important to him.

8. Why does Khetaram consider his appointment a 'new lease of life'?

His appointment provided him with an assured source of income at a time when agricultural production in his region was uncertain. The job helped him support his family and gave him a dependable means of livelihood.

9. How do villagers show their trust in Khetaram?

Villagers feel comfortable asking Khetaram to read their letters and draft replies. He is warmly received in their homes and is trusted with personal communication. The rejection of a proposal to transfer GDS work to patwaris also reflects the villagers' confidence in people like Khetaram.

10. Why is Khetaram important to the families living in the arid region?

He delivers letters and money-related communication from relatives living far away. For families in the remote region, postal services can therefore be an important source of both emotional connection and financial support.

11. Why does Khetaram dread one particular kind of letter?

He dreads letters containing news of death. The chapter says that an envelope with its right corner torn off signifies such a message. Khetaram regards this as 'Ashubh Samachar' and does not want bad news to be carried into the house.

12. What does Khetaram do when he receives a letter containing news of death, and why?

He stands outside the house, reads the letter twice and then tears it into pieces. He believes that bad news must be destroyed and should not be carried into the house.

13. What does the chapter reveal about Khetaram’s character?

Khetaram is hardworking, responsible, resilient and compassionate. He continues his difficult work despite extreme conditions. He is also trusted by villagers and understands the emotional importance of the messages he carries.

14. How would phone lines help Khetaram in his job?

Once phone lines reach nearer to his area, Khetaram hopes to become a Gramin Sanchar Sewak. He would then carry a mobile phone as well as postal mail from home to home, allowing him to continue serving people while adapting to changing communication needs.

15. Why does the author pay tribute to people like Khetaram?

The author recognises that people like Khetaram provide essential services to communities living in remote and difficult regions. Their work keeps people connected and supports the social fabric of these communities despite geographical and environmental challenges.

B. Words – Important Questions

16. What is the central idea of the poem ‘Words’?

The poem explores the limitations of words when they are empty or superficial. The poet suggests that a few sincere and meaningful words can bring more emotional value than a large number of words that merely reach the head without touching the heart.

17. Why are words compared to ‘summer birds’?

Like summer birds that depart and leave empty air behind, words may disappear without leaving a meaningful emotional impact. The comparison emphasises the temporary and sometimes empty nature of words.

18. Why is the heart described as ‘a pilgrim upon earth’?

The image of a pilgrim suggests that the heart moves through life seeking meaning, connection and fulfilment. It may search for words that genuinely meet its emotional needs.

19. Why are words compared to weeds?

The comparison suggests that words can be of little value when they do not satisfy a genuine emotional need. Like weeds, such words may exist in abundance but may not produce anything useful or meaningful.

20. How can a few sincere words bring more joy than many words?

Sincere words are meaningful because they come from genuine feeling and connect with the heart. A large number of empty words may reach the mind but fail to create emotional connection, whereas a few truthful words can provide comfort and happiness.

21. What does the poet mean by ‘The voice that wins its sunny way, / A lonely home to cheer’?

The poet refers to a voice whose few sincere words can bring happiness and comfort to a lonely person or home. The emotional value of the words matters more than their quantity.

22. What does the poet mean by ‘If words could satisfy the chest, / The world might hold a feast’?

The poet imagines that if words could completely satisfy people’s deeper emotional needs, the world would have reason to celebrate. However, words often fail to provide such complete satisfaction.

23. Explain the comparison between words and plants that cannot grow fruit.

The comparison shows that some words may look impressive on the surface, just as plants may produce attractive flowers, but they produce no useful result. Such words have appearance without meaningful substance.

24. What contrast does the poet present in the poem?

The poet contrasts many words with a few sincere words, and superficial appearance with meaningful substance. He shows that a large quantity of words may have little value, while a small number of heartfelt words can have a deep impact.

25. How does the theme of loneliness appear in the poem?

The poem refers to a lonely home that can be cheered by a meaningful voice. The heart is also shown searching for words that can meet its needs. These images suggest loneliness and the desire for genuine emotional connection.

26. How does repetition strengthen the poem?

The repeated use of the word ‘words’ keeps the reader focused on the poem’s central subject. It reinforces the poet’s examination of how words can either create meaningful communication or remain empty and ineffective.

27. What poetic devices are used in the poem?

The poem uses several poetic devices, including simile, metaphor, hyperbole and repetition. For example, words are compared to summer birds through a simile, while the heart is described as a pilgrim through metaphor. The idea of the world holding a feast if words could satisfy the chest is hyperbolic.

C. Critical Reflection – Exam Practice

28. Why are meaningful words more precious than a lot of words?

Meaningful words express genuine feelings and can provide comfort, understanding or joy. A large number of words without sincerity may reach the mind but fail to touch the heart.

29. What does the poem suggest about effective communication?

It suggests that effective communication depends more on sincerity, relevance and emotional meaning than on the number of words used. Words should communicate something valuable rather than merely create a lot of talk.

30. How does the poem convey the superficial nature of some words?

The poet uses images of empty air, weeds and plants that cannot grow fruit. These images suggest that words may appear plentiful or attractive but still fail to produce meaningful emotional results.

Quick Revision Points

- Khetaram: Gramin Dak Sewak and sole postman of Somarad Branch Post Office.
- Main prose themes: communication, service, trust, rural life and human connection.
- Key challenge: delivering mail across the harsh Thar desert.
- Bad-news letter: right corner of the envelope is torn; Khetaram tears the letter after reading it.
- Poem: Words by Charles Swain.
- Poem message: sincere words are more valuable than many superficial words.
- Poetic devices: simile, metaphor, hyperbole and repetition.

Source note: These question answers are based on the uploaded Kaveri Chapter 7 textbook, particularly the Check Your Understanding, Critical Reflection and poem appreciation sections. Answers are condensed for exam revision and are not presented as verbatim textbook answers.