

1. Read the given extracts and answer the questions :

[10]

"Akaal or famine is a way of life here. In a good year, I get one crop of bajra. That cannot feed my family of five. We would starve without this job," he says. And for each family which resides in this arid land, survival is partly dependent on money orders remitted by a relative.

I. Complete the sentence given below with an appropriate reason.

One crop of bajra makes a little difference for people like Khetaram because _____ .

II. Why did Khetaram term famine as 'a way of life'?

III. Give one reason why Khetaram had to take up a job to help his family to survive.

IV. Complete the analogy given below with a word from the extract.

Other families : Money orders :: Khetaram: _____

V. What would 'a good year' signify?

Ans. : 1. One crop of bajra makes a little difference for people like Khetaram because it cannot feed his family of five.

2. Khetaram termed famine as 'a way of life' because droughts and poor harvests are common in the desert, making food scarcity a regular part of life.

3. Khetaram had to take up a job to help his family survive because farming alone was insufficient to provide food and income.

4. Other families : Money orders :: Khetaram : Job

5. A 'good year' would signify a year when at least one crop grows successfully despite the harsh desert conditions.

There is one letter delivery he dreads. The envelope with the right corner torn off, which signifies that the missive bears news of death. "Ashubh Samachar cannot be carried into the house," says Khetaram. So, he stands outside, reads out the letter twice, then tears it to bits. "Bad news must be destroyed," he mutters philosophically.

VI. Choose the correct option for the following question.

Who could have torn the right corner of the envelope?

A. Khetaram

B. Sender of the letter

C. Receiver of the letter

D. The postmaster

VII. Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

The most likely reason for Khetaram reading the letter twice is because _____ .

VIII. What was Khetaram's philosophy regarding bad news, and how did he act upon it?



IX. State whether the following sentence is true or false.

Khetaram's action of tearing the letter differed from his beliefs.

X. Mention any one aspect of Khetaram's temperament which is revealed through this extract.

Ans. : 1. B. Sender of the letter

2. The most likely reason for Khetaram reading the letter twice is because he wanted to make sure the family clearly understood the bad news before he destroyed the letter.

3. Khetaram's philosophy regarding bad news was that it should not enter the house or cause further distress; he acted upon it by reading the letter outside and then tearing it to pieces.

4. False - Khetaram's action of tearing the letter was in line with his belief, not different.

5. One aspect of Khetaram's temperament revealed:

He is compassionate and sensitive to the feelings of others.

2. Answer the following six questions in about 40- 50 words each :

[24]

I. Why do you think Khetaram has taken up this challenging job? Discuss.

Ans. : Khetaram has taken up this challenging job because it provides him a steady income in an area where farming is unreliable due to droughts and harsh desert conditions. He mentions that without this job, his family of five would struggle to survive, so it is essential for his livelihood.

II. How do you think Khetaram would feel about taking up this challenging task every day? Discuss with your teacher.

Ans. : Khetaram would likely feel a mix of responsibility, pride, and fatigue. He seems dedicated and committed to serving his community, taking pride in being a trusted link between families and the outside world, but he also faces extreme physical challenges, like walking long distances in 50°C heat and sandstorms.

III. Why was a piece of jaggery offered in the village when he brought news of a birth or weddings?

Ans. : In the village, a piece of jaggery was offered to Khetaram when he brought news of a birth or weddings as a small gesture of gratitude and respect. Living in a harsh desert area with limited resources, the villagers could not offer much, but this simple sweet symbolized their appreciation for his efforts in delivering important and joyful news. It also reflected the close bond and trust between Khetaram and the people he served, showing how valued his role was in connecting them to their families and community despite the harsh conditions of the Thar Desert.

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



Ans. : Phone lines would help Khetaram communicate more quickly with villagers and his office, allowing him to coordinate deliveries, receive instructions, and respond to urgent messages. It would reduce the need for long foot journeys just to deliver or collect information, making his work faster and more efficient. He could also carry a cell phone to serve as a Gramin Sanchar Sewak, combining mail and communication services to better connect remote families with the outside world.

V. Justify the statement made by Postmaster-General, Rajasthan Western Region stating that the role of GDS is 'invaluable'.

Ans. : The Postmaster-General called the role of GDS 'invaluable' because they deliver letters, parcels, and money orders to interior and remote areas that are often inaccessible by any other means besides foot, ensuring communication and financial support for isolated communities.

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

Ans. : The purpose of India Post was broader and more inclusive than that of the British postal system. While the British system mainly focused on administrative and official communication, India Post aimed to serve the general public. It worked to connect people across the country, ensuring communication, accessibility, and services reached even the most remote areas.

VII. People trusted Gramin Dak Sewaks. Support this statement with any two instances from the text.

Ans. : People had deep trust in Gramin Dak Sewaks, as shown through their actions. For instance, Khetaram not only delivered letters but also read them aloud and helped villagers write replies, making him dependable. Additionally, when a plan suggested replacing GDS with patwaris, villagers opposed it, believing others could not match their honesty and dedication.

VIII. Infer the most likely reason that Khetaram was grateful to continue as GDS, even after the age of 60.

Ans. : Khetaram was most likely grateful to continue as a GDS even after the age of 60 because his work gave him a sense of purpose and respect in the community. He was valued and trusted by the villagers, and his role allowed him to remain active, useful, and connected to people's lives, which brought him personal satisfaction.

3. Answer the following six questions in about 100- 120 words each : [6]

I. Explain why the author pays tribute to people like Khetaram.

Ans. : "The author pays tribute to people like Khetaram because they perform extraordinary work under extremely harsh and challenging conditions, yet remain committed to serving their communities. Khetaram walks long distances through the Thar Desert, often in scorching heat above 50°C, carrying heavy mailbags to ensure

that villagers receive letters, parcels, and money orders. These deliveries are not just messages; they connect families, provide financial support, and maintain trust in the postal system. The author highlights how Khetaram helps villagers read letters, drafts replies for them, and even handles bad news with sensitivity, showing his compassion and dedication. Despite limited resources, isolation, and physical strain, GDS like Khetaram form an indispensable link between remote areas and the rest of the country. By narrating his perseverance, resilience, and social importance, the author honors such individuals, recognizing their service as a backbone of rural India's communication and social fabric."

