**Model answer:**

Portability

An optical device is a small, lightweight device that can be easily carried around by Kerry, it makes it easier to transfer from home to school. However, Kerry would probably need to put the CD in case or a plastic wallet to keep it safe. A solid-state device such as a USB flash drive is also small and lightweight and easy for Kerry to put in her bag and carry to school.

Durability

The problem with optical devices is that if exposed, CD’s are vulnerable to scratches and marks which can affect the ability of the data stored on there to be read successfully. Kerry could risk losing her work if the CD fails to load her files at school. On the other hand, a solid-state device has a protective plastic casing and no moving parts. This means that if dropped it, it’s less likely to become damaged and could still work.

Capacity

The cost of a CD will be quite low however, the maximum capacity is 700MB. This might be enough for Kerry if she is only going to store small files. On the other hand, a solid-state device like a USB flash drive can store more data. A typical USB flash drive can store up to 256GB which means if Kerry needs to transfer larger files such as videos then solid-state storage would be the best option.

Cost

Cost per GB is important to consider. Although CD’s are cheap, you only get a maximum capacity of 700MB. Whereas USB flash drives will cost more but if you want a 16GB USB flash drive then it would cost about £7 and if you calculate how much that is per GB then you could be getting value for money. Kerry could see this type of device as an investment in that she can use throughout her time at school.