

8 mark candidate exemplar

Exemplar 3

8 marks

(iii)* Kerry was originally going to use an optical storage device to transfer her files.

Discuss whether an optical or solid state device is the most appropriate media to transfer these files.

You may want to consider the following characteristics in your answer:

- ✓ portability ~~x~~ born don't suffer from major damage if
- ✓ robustness ~~x~~ dropped, for example.
- ✓ capacity
- ✓ cost

[8]

~~Optical devices~~ Optical devices have a low cost per unit of capacity generally, but compared to a solid state drive (which is often expensive), optical drives are very cheap. However, optical devices aren't as robust, because they have pits on the surface of the disc which represent a binary value. If the disc is scratched, a new pit is formed, changing the data which had been stored on the drive. Solid state drives are more robust, as they aren't easily damaged in that sense. ~~Regarding~~ Regarding portability, both devices are similarly easy to transport, as they have no moving parts on the drives themselves, and optical drives are also waterproof. ~~Solid state drives have a lot of~~ Solid state drives have a lot of generally come in larger capacities, as optical drives are usually used just for the storing of ^amultimedia projects (e.g. a film). In terms of reading ~~and~~ and writing speeds, solid state drives are faster, as the data on them can be randomly accessed, whereas in an optical drive, the laser light used to interpret the optical drive has to search for the data.

~~Overall, a solid state drive would be more practical for Kerry,~~ Overall, a solid state drive would be more practical for Kerry, as they generally come in larger capacities, which is appropriate as she is transferring all the data from her laptop, which would generally be a large amount of data. SSDs are also much faster to write to, which is beneficial as ~~it~~ writing all her data to an optical drive would be time consuming. Despite SSDs having a shorter lifespan,

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it will be more practical and easy to use, for the time
that it does operate. The robustness and portability are
also added benefits.

Examiner commentary

This candidate has given a well-structured response that has a discussion of both types of media, with multiple points for both sides. The final paragraph has good examples of linking the points back to the scenario, these are clear explicit links which allow it to access L3. The numerous valid points and structured discussion allow it to gain the maximum marks.