Cell Plan Class Scenario

Sarah has just completed her first year of Chemical Engineering at the University of Alberta. She has taken out student loans, and along with money saved from summer and after-school jobs, is comfortable with budgeting for four years of schooling. She has moved away from home for the first time, and into a basement suite near the University. Almost everything is going according to plan.

Sarah is no longer eligible to be on her parents’ cell phone plan. She already owns her own unlocked phone, and so she only needs to sign up with a new cellular plan. The real challenge is deciding what plan to sign onto. With all the budgeting done, Sarah figures she can spend up to $90 a month on her cell phone, although she would like to spend as little as possible.

The basement she lives in has very poor internet, and she will be calling long distance to home a lot. She will also be communicating with her family, friends, and classmates via text. Assignments and notes will be shared often, and so Sarah will be sending lots of picture and video texts. Sarah doesn’t watch a lot of video entertainment, but does use Snapchat, Pinterest, and other social media frequently.

Even though Sarah’s boyfriend, Peter, recently won the lottery he still loves his job at Staples and has helped Sarah narrow down her choices to four different possible plans that are within reason. Which of these four should Sarah sign up to?