

Marks

Question 3 (6 marks)

- (a) Distinguish between the research techniques of *observation* and *participant observation*. 2

Observation can mean observing a group from a distance, that is not becoming actively involved in the activities the group does. Participant observation however is becoming actively involved with the group - an example of this may be observing a family in which you belong to & observe from close range.

- (b) Assess the value of participant observation in a study of teenage gangs. 4

Participant observation in a study of teenage gangs would prove to be valuable because the 'observer' would become socially interactive with the members of the gang. They would be able to obtain a first hand look into the thought, feelings & aspects of teenage gangs. This would allow the 'observer' to become completely involved, whilst still observing, allowing extensive information to be drawn. However, the researcher may become biased & if the researcher is an 'identified ~~observer~~ observer' the members of the gang may act how they think the researcher would want them to.