

Marks

Question 3 (6 marks)

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

Observation is observing and recording peoples behaviour usually without them being aware of it. Participant observation is getting involved in the activity and recording your findings, ~~that~~ rather than just watching. Participant observation may result in more qualitative results

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

Participant observation is valuable in the study of gangs as you gain insight into their activities and behaviour directly. It allows for in-depth observation. It however has problems as the gang would be conscious of your presence, and alter their behaviour substantially, therefore it will not be a true reflector of their situation affecting your results. It is also easy to bring personal bias to the situation affecting your results. The gang may feel uncomfortable with an observer and it makes the situation difficult and affects results. Therefore it is useful if it works successfully but has the potential for problems in results