

Marks

Question 3 (6 marks)

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

Observation is a passive form of research where the observer does not interact in the situation. Alternatively, participant observation involves the observer taking a more active role in the research and ~~actively participating~~ participating to an extent

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

The value of participant observation in a study of teenage gangs would be of limited value as it could involve the observer ~~from~~ having some involvement in the gang situation which may be both inappropriate and uncomfortable. Whilst this form of research would provide a detailed insight into the behaviour of gang members, it is limited in its understanding of motives and objectives. Partiality and bias are other elements that could limit an accurate representation of facts.