

Marks

Question 3 (6 marks)

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

Participant Observation is when the individual blends in with the group and interacts with the activities and members. Observation on the other hand is when the individual is a bystander and only watches and listens from a distance without involving themselves.

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

The value of participant observation of teenage gangs would allow the individual to have a better understand and knowledge on how they interact with one another, how they deal with issues within and outside the gang. Participant observation allows the researcher to have a more detailed study of the group than for example just observing because you wouldn't understand or know why they are doing certain actions. The disadvantage of participant observation is the researcher can become too involved within the group and lose track on what they were aiming to find, it can also be a lot more dangerous on the individual to be involved in a gang because it is unknown how they might react if they knew they were being studied.

And if they do know, their attitudes and actions might not be ~~the true~~ their natural responses therefore tampering with the results of the study.