2.5 Observation: Participant, Non-Participant, Covert and Overt: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological vocabulary and name sociologists where you can.

1 Whyte's Street Corner Society study is a classic example of overt participant observation.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Studies like Whyte's, in which the researcher becomes closely involved with a group over a long period, attract criticism as well as praise. Explain one criticism of studies in which the researcher becomes closely involved with a group over a long period.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Some research methods give a truer picture of what they claim to study than others. Define validity.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 State one reason observation methods are generally considered high in validity.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 2.5 Observation: Participant, Non-Participant, Covert and Overt: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies overt participant observation as the researcher taking part in the group's everyday life while the group knows who the researcher is and that they are being studied **B1**

development, e.g. Whyte spent an extended period living in the neighbourhood and befriending gang members, who knew he was a researcher, to understand their way of life from the inside **B1**

Answer: Overt participant observation involves the researcher taking part in the group's everyday life while the group knows who the researcher is and that they are being studied. Whyte spent an extended period living in the neighbourhood and befriending gang members, who knew he was a researcher, to understand their way of life from the inside.

Question 2

identifies a genuine criticism, e.g. the close, long-term relationship the researcher builds with the group risks bias **B1**

development, e.g. the researcher may become too sympathetic toward, or protective of, the people they have got to know, affecting objectivity **B1**

Answer: Critics argue the close, long-term relationship a researcher builds with a group in studies like Whyte's risks bias, since the researcher may become too sympathetic toward, or protective of, the people they have got to know, affecting objectivity.

Question 3

identifies validity as the extent to which a research method actually measures or captures what it claims or intends to measure (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. producing a true, authentic picture of what is being studied **B1**

Answer: Validity is the extent to which a research method actually measures or captures what it claims to measure, producing a true, authentic picture of what is being studied.

Question 4

identifies that observation directly witnesses real behaviour as it happens **B1**

development, e.g. rather than relying on what people say they do, as in a questionnaire or interview **B1**

Answer: Observation directly witnesses real behaviour as it happens, rather than relying on what people say they do in a questionnaire or interview, which is why it is generally considered high in validity.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk