**PET of PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION**

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| **Define the**  **method** | **Where the researcher does not join in with the activities of the group- either covert or overt. They are at a distance** | | | | |
| **Example(s)** | **‘Why Kids Kill’ – dispatches documentary** | | | | |
| **Circle correct** | **Quantitative** | **Qualitative - somtimes** | **Positivist** | **Realist** | **Interpretivist** |
|  | **Strengths** | | **Weaknesses** | | |
| **Practical** | -Less likely to reject the sociologist because they know who you are and what the aims of the research are (overt)  -Can be cheaper than other methods e.g. questionnaires.  -Don’t necessarily need to be trained  -Access less of an issue if using CCTV  - Not as time consuming as Participant observation  - No real risk of going native | | -Could be issues with access e.g. schools may not want someone to come in an observe  -Access could be very difficult to hidden groups, such as gangs – their behaviour may not be overtly happening | | |
| **Ethical** | -Overt-gains consent  -Overt- no deception- can make aims clear  -Overt + covert – less issue of getting involved in dangerous situations than participant obs | | -Covert- lying and deceiving  -Overt – could be some risk if people don’t wish to be observed.  - Covert – lack of consent | | |
| **Theoretical** | -Reliability could be high as an observation schedule can be used to tick off how many times a behaviour occurs  - Can see how groups interact (element of validity)  - Covert – lack of hawthorne effect | | - Relies on subjectivity to analyse the data as you can’t ask questions  -Lacks validity due to not being able to ask questions.  - Hawthorne effect (overt) – people may change behaviour. Decreases validity.  -Small samples means you can’t represent target population – practical issue that it’s hard to study large groups with this method.  -Cannot generalise the data to wider groups.  -Interpretivists don’t really like the method as you can’t ask questions | | |