**PET of PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION**

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| **Define the** **method** | **Where the researcher joins in with the activities of the group- either covert or overt, could be part of an ethnography** |
| **Example(s)** | **Willis ‘Learning to Labour’, Venkatesh ‘Gang Leader for a Day’, James Patrick ‘A Glasgow Gang Observed’** |
| **Circle correct** | **Quantitative** | **Qualitative** | **Positivist** | **Realist** | **Interpretivist** |
|  | **Strengths**  | **Weaknesses**  |
| **Practical** | -Allows access to groups that other methods or techniques may not e.g. sensitive, gangs.-Could be useful for creating hypotheses for future research.-Within a group a range of possibilities can occur- leading the research in new directions e.g. Venkatesh found out about the local community, not just gangs.  | -Time consuming e.g. Venkatesh took 7 yrs.-Group might refuse access.-Could be expensive- requires highly skilled researcher and time to complete.-Need to make sure that the characteristics of the researcher fit the nature of the group.  |
| **Ethical** | -Gain consent in overt research e.g. Willis gained approval from school and the lads. - Less likely in overt research for the researcher to end up in danger. -Overt avoids deception.-Overt- can build trust because motives are clear. | -Covert- can’t gain consent because participants are unaware they are being studied e.g. Patrick. -Could be put at risk in covert research e.g. if group found out. Patrick used a pseudonym and had to wait before publishing work.-Could be issues with a moral duty to report crimes that have been witnessed. Also potential issues with having to fit in with the group e.g. Patrick- taking drugs. |
| **Theoretical** | -Ethnography reduces hawthorne effect because the length of time for the observation means people can’t change their behaviour that much.-Covert can be more valid because participants won’t change their behaviour. -Validity is high because able to see someone’s real lived experiences. -Overt- can ask questions- increases validity.  | -Lacks reliability- hard to compare and repeat. This form of research is very rare.-Hard to generalise- samples are very small- cannot compare to groups more widely.-Researcher could go native.- Overt- can disrupt actual activities of group short-term, which could lead to a decrease in validity. - Positivists won’t like this approach.  |