**PET - PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION**

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| **Define the** **method** | **Where the researcher joins in on the activities of the group** |
| **Example(s)** | **James Patrick – gang leader for a day****Paul Willis - Lads** |
| **Circle correct** | **Quantitative** | **Qualitative**  | **Positivist** | **Realist** | **Interpretivist** |
|  | **Strengths**  | **Weaknesses**  |
| **Practical** | * Get to experience what’s going on, resulting in a better understanding
* Because participant observation enables the sociologist to build a rapport with the group and gain its trust it has provided a successful method of study e.g. football hooligans, thieves, drug dealers
 | * Very time consuming e.g. Whyte’s study took him four years to complete
* Researcher needs t be trained in able to be recognise aspects of a situation
* Can be personally stressful and demanding especially if covert
* Requires observational and interpersonal skills which not everyone possesses
* Many groups may not want to be studied this way and some have the power to make this difficult for the observer
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| **Ethical** | * If the researcher is overt, You can ask for permission to observe making it easier to record data and therefore more reliable
 | * Gaining entry and consent to group can be tricky
* With covert observations you will have to lie to participants to ensure you remain undercover
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| **Theoretical** | * Primary source data not interrupted by anyone else
* Rapport more likely with participation and honesty
* Rich qualitative data
* Able to gain valid data- ask questions about the participants behaviour.
 | * Presence of researcher Hawthorne effect
* Observation may lack structure so quality can be a problem
* Lack of structure unreliable difficult to replicate
* Small samples so not representative
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