## **PET - NON PARTICIPANT/STRUCTURED OBSERVATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Define the** **method** | **Where the researcher observes the group without taking part** |
| **Example(s)** | **Holden (2011) – ‘Happily ever after’** **‘why kids kill’ – Dispatches – Channel 4** |
| **Circle correct** | **Quantitative** | **Qualitative** | **Positivist** | **Realist** | **Interpretivist** |
|  | **Strengths**  | **Weaknesses**  |
| **Practical** | * Eliminates Hawthorne effect if covert
* Don’t have to train the researcher for interpersonal skills
* Its faster, more representative which leads to firmer generalisations being
* made
* Doesn’t depend on the skills of the researcher
 | * Time consuming to carry out and analyse if using filmed data.
* If using cameras they may not be able to be put everywhere.
* Could be hard to access/carry out on closed groups.
 |
| **Ethical** | * If its overt it is ethical as people aren’t being deceived
* No risk of researchers going native, this may involve condoning unethical behaviour or withholding information from the police
* Safety is increased if using CCTV/filming from a distance
 | * No informed consent
* If Covert, can be unethical because of informed consent
 |
| **Theoretical** | * Reliable because it is a structured method
* Observer remains dethatched which means the groups behaviour is not influenced
* Standardised observational categories which produces reliable data
* Pre-coded observational categories allow the sociologists to produce quantitative data
 | * You can’t get the full picture, so lacks validity.
* If overt there could be the hawthorne effect.
 |

##