**Godalming College**

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

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| **Define the**  **method** | **The researcher don’t need to participate to observe people’s behaviour. A non-participant observer is like a bird watcher in hiding, observing people without joining in.** | | | | |
| **Example(s)** | **Holden in 2011 “Happily ever after”** | | | | |
| **Circle correct** | **Quantitative** | **Qualitative** | **Positivist** | **Realist** | **Interpretivist** |
|  | **Strengths** | | **Weaknesses** | | |
| **Practical** | * Mainly very easy to access those being studied * Easy to look at post observation online or text * Cheap * Notes can be taken * Can be done anywhere | | * Takes a lot of time * Values of society- will see it as being controversial * Researchers must keep his views out and only report what he sees * Researcher only sees what he wants to see. The result might be bias based on their idea. | | |
| **Ethical** | * Findings can be reported more accurately and honestly. There is an ethical obligation to be fair and honest. The neutrality can be maintained. * Confidentiality, anonymity and privacy the identities are not revealed and pseudonyms are used. * Participants aren’t affected by the research [the golden rule] | | * Lack of informed consent * Research could be deemed invalid because they didn’t consent * Deception and covert research for the same reason above. * “Guilty knowledge” the researcher is ethically obligated to report the wrong doing | | |
| **Theoretical** | * Easy to make generalisation * Reliability could be high as the measure can be repeated. * Participants are not affected by the “Hawthorne effect” if covert | | * Not very valid as behaviour can change due to hawthorne effect * Representativeness is low because it is an opportunity sample so is not representative to a population * Validity can be low- hard to ask questions and find out the context | | |

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