## **PET - QUALITATIVE SECONDARY DOCUMENTS**

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| **Define the** **method** | **Information that has been collected or created by someone else for their own purposes, but which the other sociologists can use.** |
| **Example(s)** | **Public Documents (Black Report 1980)****Personal Documents (letters, diaries)** |
| **Circle correct** | **Quantitative** | **Qualitative** | **Positivist** | **Realist** | **Interpretivist** |
|  | **Strengths**  | **Weaknesses**  |
| **Practical** | * Public documents are often easily accessible, (eg David Gilborn 1995)
* Cheap and not very time consuming source of data.
 | * Personal documents can be more difficult to access such as personal diaries.
* Some educational documents are confidential, such as teachers’ personnel files and pupils’ disciplinary records.
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| **Ethical** | * Don’t need to get consent for public documents in an archive.
 | * Ethical problems with personal documents, informed consent has to be obtained.
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| **Theoretical** | * Official documents are legally required of all schools and colleges. This makes it more likely that we can form a representative picture.
* Documents can provide important insights into the meanings held by teachers and pupils and can therefore be high in validity.

  | * Personal documents are often less representative.
* However, all documents are open to different interpretations.
* You do not know how they were collected tin the first place, may be unreliable.
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