

Marks

Question 3 (6 marks)

- (a) Distinguish between the research techniques of *observation* and *participant observation*. **2**

Observation is watching from the outside, letting things run their course without interfering.
Participant observation is being part of the activity taking place and observing what happens.

- (b) Assess the value of participant observation in a study of teenage gangs. **4**

participant observation would be very valuable in a study of teenage gangs as it would allow the person observing to participate in the daily life and activities of gang members. A participant observer would experience a different world from what they are probably used to. They would be able to access 'Inside Information' which they probably would find hard to obtain if they were observing from a distance.