

2 hours

Answer both questions

Total marks: 80

Question number 1

Section A: Research Methods

Source A

1. In 1937 Bill Whyte began a three and a half year study into an Italian-American gang in Boston, USA. This classic study, called 'Street Corner Society', was based on participant observation. One of the difficulties Bill Whyte faced was gaining entry into the group. He was helped by the gang leader Doc.

Doc later told Bill Whyte:

'Now when I do something I have to think what Bill Whyte would want to know about it and how I can explain it. Before, I used to do things by instinct.' Bill Whyte later admitted that he had become so involved with the gang that he had become a nonobservant participant rather than a non-participant observer.

(a) Identify two reasons why researchers might have difficulties gaining entry to groups like gangs. [2]

(b) Identify two methods that might be used to research gangs, apart from observation. [2]

(c) Using information from Source A, describe two ways in which the observer might influence the behaviour of those being observed.

[4]

(d) Describe two strengths of using non-participant observation in sociological research. [4]

(e) Describe two strengths and two limitations of unstructured interviews. [8]

(f) Explain why the results of participant observation studies may be unreliable. [10]

(g) To what extent does the presence of the researcher affect the validity of the research? [15]

Section B: Culture and Socialisation

2. Sociologists believe that primary socialisation is carried out by the family. One of the main ways children learn the norms and values of society is through interaction with their parents.

(a) What is meant by the term interaction? [2]

(b) Describe two features of primary socialization. [4]

(c) Explain how children learn to interact with other people once they go to school. [6]

(d) Explain why socialisation is more influential than biological

drives shaping the individual's behaviour. q [8]

(d) To what extent is social order based on shared values in modern industrial societies? [15]