

Observation Techniques – Questions by Topic

Q1.

Explain what is meant by 'overt observation'.

(Total 2 marks)

Q2.

A head teacher wanted to increase recycling in his school. He arranged for the canteen to have three bins, one for cardboard, one for plastic and one for food waste. A month later, a psychology teacher decided to see if the students were recycling. One lunch break she watched different students going to the bins. Each time, she wrote down which of the three types of waste they recycled. She positioned herself so that the students could not see her but so that she had a clear view of the bins.

(a) Identify **one** type of observation being used in this investigation. Justify your answer.

(2)

(b) Explain the sampling technique the teacher used to record her observations.

(2)

As the different year groups had lunch at different times, the teacher was able to present her results as three year groups, as shown in the table below.

The number of items each year group recycled

Year group	Cardboard	Plastic	Food
7-9	20	35	10
10-11	18	25	7
12-13	12	15	5

(c) What do the results in the table suggest about the recycling initiative? Refer to the data in the table above in your answer.

(4)

(d) Explain **one** way in which the design of this observation could have been improved.

(2)

(Total 10 marks)

Q3.

Briefly discuss how observational research might be improved by conducting observations in a controlled environment.

(Total 4 marks)

Q4.

Observation in a Strange Situation has been used to investigate cultural variations in

attachment.

Give **one** advantage of using observation in psychological research.

(Total 2 marks)