

## Sociological Research Skills

<b>Collecting Primary Data: Observation</b>	
<b>Total Marks:</b>	<b>25</b>

**1. You have decided to do non-participant observation based research at a Further Education College, investigating college life from the staff and student's points of view.**

**Identify and explain, using examples drawn from your research, the advantages of using this method (3)**

**2. Identify and explain, using examples drawn from your research, the disadvantages of using this method (3)**

**3. A researcher has decided to do covert participant observation based research on their local police force. Look at each of the following and, for each, briefly explain, using possible examples drawn from their research, how they would be advantages (4):**

- ? **Personal experience**
- ? **Normal behaviour**

**4. Look at each of the following disadvantages of covert participant observation; for each, briefly explain, using examples drawn from the above research, how they might be disadvantages (7):**

- ? **Gaining entry to the group**
- ? **Danger**
- ? **Ethical dilemmas**
- ? **Going native**
- ? **Staying in the group**
- ? **Getting out of the group**

**5. In relation to observational research, briefly explain:**

- a. **Why it might be difficult to join a group covertly (2)**
- b. **The difficulties of recording information accurately (2)**
- c. **Why it might be difficult to remain objective (2)**
- d. **Why it might be difficult to avoid influencing the behaviour of the group (2)**