

Section E Research Methods

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

5

School inspectors highlighted poor student behaviour at a local school. One of the issues was students turning up late for school. A number of teachers reported that some students were arriving up to twenty minutes late for school.

Two psychologists were asked to conduct an observation study to find out whether or not turning up late was a serious issue.

The psychologists decided to observe students arriving for school and to record their arrival times.

The psychologists wanted to make sure that they had high inter-observer reliability.

5 (a)

Outline how the psychologists could check that they had high inter-observer reliability.

[2 marks]

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5 (b)

Explain how the two psychologists could carry out their observation study into lateness. Include in your answer:

- **at least one** behavioural category that could be used
- where and when the observation could be conducted
- how the data could be recorded.

[4 marks]

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Extra space
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5 (c) Briefly explain why categories of behaviour are necessary in observation studies. **[2 marks]**

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5 (d) Apart from ethical issues, outline **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of observation studies. **[4 marks]**

Advantage:
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Disadvantage:
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5 (e) After completing their observations, the psychologists decided to speak to some of the teachers about the behaviour of students at the school.

They conducted structured interviews.

5 (e) (i) The psychologists asked those teachers who happened to be in the staffroom at 3.00 pm to take part in the interviews. This is an example of:

(Tick the correct box.)

Random sampling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Systematic sampling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunity sampling	<input type="checkbox"/>

[1 mark]

Turn over ►



5 (e) (ii) Outline what is meant by the term ‘target population’.

[2 marks]

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5 (e) (iii) Identify the target population for the interviews.

[1 mark]

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5 (e) (iv) Give an example of **one** open question and **one** closed question that the psychologists might have asked the teachers during the interview.

[2 marks]

Open:
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Closed:
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5 (e) (v) The following statements are advantages and limitations of different research methods. Only **two** of them are about correlations. Which **two** are they?

(Tick **two** boxes only.)

This method provides detailed information about individuals.	<input type="checkbox"/>
This method cannot establish cause and effect.	<input type="checkbox"/>
This method allows a researcher to see if there is a relationship between two variables.	<input type="checkbox"/>
This method allows the researcher to control all variables.	<input type="checkbox"/>

[2 marks]

20

END OF QUESTIONS

