KEY TERMS

Qualitative – A form of research that goes into greater depth than statistics and numerical based studies. Qualitative studies considered VALID (another way of saying ‘in depth’). Key factor to consider is that Qualitative studies CANNOT be repeated with a guarantee of the same/similar outcome, therefore not considered RELIABLE.

Quantitative- Primarily statistic and numerical based pieces of research. Lack VALIDITY (depth) but instead have a high level of repeatability, with a similar sample of people. (RELIABILITY)

Primary research – Your own form of first hand research. Examples of primary research can include- Interview with a prison officer; self created and conducted survey, observation of prisoners etc.

Secondary research- somebody else’s research. Second hand. Examples include a survey conducted by and organization such as IPSOS MORI or the SPS, Internet research, transcripts of previous criminal interviews etc.

Objectivity- Lack of bias in research.

TYPES OF RESEARCH- TOP EXAMPLES

Police statistics

Controversial
• Fail to handle enquiries properly- 2/3rd of crime in the UK goes unreported. Therefore failing to paint an accurate picture of crime in the UK. LACKS RELIABILITY
• Bias against women and Ethnic minorities
• Victim survey- Fail to acknowledge the victims of White Collar Crime, again painting an inaccurate picture of who crime truly affects.
• Crime survey- random sample about being a victim of crime. People have a tendency to lie about crime and thus the figure’s accuracy must be considered.
• Idea of societal bias. Police labeling theory- more likely to target Ethnic minorities and those from a lower socio-economic than go after White Collar Criminals.
• On the whole not entirely consistent.

Survey

• RELIABLE- can repeat again, similar result once repeated with similar sample of people. Quantitative.