



Questionnaire – science barometer 2017

(Category 'don't know/missing answer' not read aloud; only one answer for each question possible if not stated otherwise)

1. Please tell me how strong your interest is in each of the following topics. (*randomised order of items*)

	very strong	somewhat strong	so-so	somewhat low	very low	don't know/ missing answer
politics	1	2	3	4	5	9
business and finance	1	2	3	4	5	9
culture	1	2	3	4	5	9
sports	1	2	3	4	5	9
science and research	1	2	3	4	5	9

2. What are the first things that come to your mind when you think about science OR research? (*open question, split ballot, capture 2-3 answers, if needed ask again*)

Statement from the interviewer: The following questions are about science and research. This includes not only natural sciences and technical research but also social sciences and humanities.

3. How strong is your interest in scientific topics from the following fields? (*randomised order of items*)

	very strong	somewhat strong	so-so	somewhat low	very low	don't know/ missing answer
medicine	1	2	3	4	5	9
engineering and new technologies	1	2	3	4	5	9
natural sciences	1	2	3	4	5	9
social sciences and humanities	1	2	3	4	5	9
<i>Note to the interviewer/in case of questions: e.g. political science or history</i>						

4. And what do you think – how well informed are you about news from science and research?

very well	1
somewhat well	2
so-so	3
not very	4
not at all	5
don't know/ missing answer	9

5. And in general, how satisfied are you with media coverage of science and research?

very satisfied	1
somewhat satisfied	2
so-so	3
somewhat unsatisfied	4
very unsatisfied	5
don't know/ missing answer	9

6. Can you remember anything you have recently heard, read or seen about science and research in the media? This could be something in the news or a documentary or a report. If so, what was it about? (*open question*)

7. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?? (*randomised order of items*)

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	don't know/ missing answer
I think it is important that citizens are involved in the formulation of research questions.	1	2	3	4	5	9
The public is sufficiently involved in decisions about science and research.	1	2	3	4	5	9

Scientists put too little effort into informing the public about their work.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Scientists work for the benefit of society.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Scientists are aware of the societal impact of their work.	1	2	3	4	5	9

8. There are different ways for citizens to participate in science and research. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	don't know/ missing answer
<p>I would like to participate in a scientific research project.</p> <p><i>Note to the interviewer: e.g. by counting the occurrence of animal species in nature or by describing artworks with different terms</i></p>	1	2	3	4	5	9

I would be interested in participating in a discussion format with scientists.	1	2	3	4	5	9
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Note to the interviewer: This question is not about participation in a specific project, but only about whether the interviewee has a non-binding interest in such participation.

Filter:

If at question no. 8/second item: 1, 2, 3 → question no. 9

If at question no. 8/second item: 4, 5, 9 → question no. 10

9. Which topic would you like to discuss with a scientist?? (*open question*)

10. How much do you trust science and research?

trust completely	1
trust somewhat	2
undecided	3
distrust somewhat	4
distrust completely	5
don't know/ missing answer	9

11. I will now read out different reasons why someone might trust scientists. Please tell me to what extent you personally agree with each of the reasons. *(randomised order of items)*

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	don't know/ missing answer
Because scientists are experts in their field.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Because scientists work according to rules and standard procedures.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Because scientists do research in the public interest.	1	2	3	4	5	9

12. I will now read out different reasons why someone might distrust scientists. Please tell me to what extent you personally agree with each of the reasons. *(randomised order of items.)*

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	don't know/ missing answer
Because scientists often make mistakes.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Because scientists often adjust results to their own expectations.	1	2	3	4	5	9

Because scientists are strongly dependent on the funders of their research.	1	2	3	4	5	9
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13. To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (*randomised order of items*)

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	don't know/ missing answer
All in all, science and research do more harm than good.	1	2	3	4	5	9
I personally benefit from science and research.	1	2	3	4	5	9
All in all, science and research will lead to a better life in the future.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Science and research change our living conditions too fast.	1	2	3	4	5	9

<p>Even if it brings no immediate benefits, research which advances knowledge, should be publicly funded.</p> <p><i>Note to the interviewer/in case of questions: This question is about basic research. In contrast to applied research, which aims, for example, for the development of a very specific new product, basic research creates prerequisites for new knowledge and serves the purpose of expanding knowledge.</i></p>	1	2	3	5	5	9
<p>People trust too much in science and not enough in their feelings and faith.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	9
<p>It should be allowed to conduct science and research into any area without restrictions.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	9

If a new technology involves unknown risks, the development of this technology should be stopped, even if a benefit is expected.	1	2	3	4	5	9
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14. To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (*randomised order of items following the items from question no. 13, no re-reading of question text*)

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	don't know/ missing answer
Climate change is mainly caused by humans and their actions.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Vaccinating children does more harm than good.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Humans and animals have common ancestors, from which they have evolved over the course of evolution.	1	2	3	4	5	9

15. In your opinion, how strong is the influence of science on politics?

much too strong	1
somewhat too strong	2
just right	3
somewhat too low	4
much too low	5
don't know/ missing answer	9

16. And the other way around: In your opinion, how strong is the influence of politics on science?

much too strong	1
somewhat too strong	2
just right	3
somewhat too low	4
much too low	5
don't know/missing answer	9

17. And in your opinion, how strong is the influence of business on science?

much too strong	1
somewhat too strong	2
just right	3

somewhat too low	4
much too low	5
don't know/ missing answer	9

18. Currently, there are societal challenges in different areas. Science and research can help to overcome these. In which of the following areas should research be conducted most intensively in the future? (*randomised order of items*)

climate and energy	1
health and nutrition	2
mobility	3
questions of security	4
communication and digitalization	5
don't know/ missing answer	9

19. Now, we would like to get to know more about how you perceive science and research. Please tell me in a few words what it means to 'research something scientifically'? (*open question*)

20. And in your opinion, which skills does someone have to possess to be a good scientist? (*open questions*)

21. We have federal elections in September. Do you think that in the election campaign science and research have so far been addressed more like sufficiently or more like insufficiently?

more like sufficiently	1
more like insufficiently	2
don't know/ missing answer	9

22. Now we would like to get to know more about your personal relationship to science and research. Do you, personally, work in science and research?

Yes	1
No, but I previously worked in science and research	2
No, I never worked in science and research	3
don't know/ missing answer	9

Filter:

If at question 22: 1, 2 → questions no. 24

If at question 22: 3, 9 → question no. 23

23. And do you know any scientists personally?

Yes	1
No	2

don't know/ missing answer	9
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24. To what extent would you describe yourself as religious?

very religious	1
somewhat religious	2
so-so	3
somewhat not religious	4
not at all religious	5
don't know/ missing answer	9

Note to the interviewer: independent from religious affiliation or denomination

25. Were you or either of your parents born abroad? *(multiple answers possible)*

Yes, me	1
Yes, my father or my mother	2
Yes, both parents	3
No, none of us	4
don't know/ missing answer	9