



Questionnaire – science barometer 2018

(Category ‘don’t know/missing answer’ not read aloud; only one answer for each question possible if not stated otherwise; text in italics is not read aloud)

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	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
politics	1	2	3	4	5	9
sports	1	2	3	4	5	9
science and research	1	2	3	4	5	9
miscellaneous news such as on celebrities or human interest	1	2	3	4	5	9

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.

2. How often...? (randomised order of items)

	very often	often	sometimes	rarely	never	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
do you talk about science and research with friends or family?	1	2	3	4	5	9
do you attend events like lectures or discussions on science and research?	1	2	3	4	5	9
do you read articles on scientific topics in newspapers or magazines? Please only consider printed issues. <i>(Note to the interviewer: Not on the internet.)</i>	1	2	3	4	5	9
do you watch TV programmes about science and research? Please only think of broadcasts within the regular TV programme. <i>(Note to the interviewer: Not streamed online.)</i>	1	2	3	4	5	9
does it happen that you listen to news or reports about science and research on the radio?	1	2	3	4	5	9
do you get information about science and research on the internet?	1	2	3	4	5	9

Filter:

If at question no. 2/ 'on the internet': 1,2,3, or 4 → question no. 3

If at question no. 2/ 'on the internet': 5 or 9 → question no. 5

3. When getting information about science and research on the internet, how often do you use the following sources? (*randomised order of items*)

	very often	often	sometimes	rarely	never	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
via Facebook, Twitter or other social networks	1	2	3	4	5	9
via blogs or online forums	1	2	3	4	5	9
via Wikipedia	1	2	3	4	5	9
via Youtube or other video platforms	1	2	3	4	5	9
via websites of scientific institutions or organisations	1	2	3	4	5	9
via websites of news media such as newspapers, magazines or TV channels	1	2	3	4	5	9
via Podcasts	1	2	3	4	5	9

Filter:

If at question no. 3/ 'via Facebook, Twitter and other social networks': 1, 2, 3 or 4 → question no. 4

If at question no. 3/ 'via Facebook, Twitter and other social networks': 5 or 9 → question no. 5

4. And how often do you do the following on social networks? (*randomised order of items*)

	very often	often	sometimes	rarely	never	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
post or share information or opinions about science and research	1	2	3	4	5	9
like or favourite information or opinions about science and research	1	2	3	4	5	9
comment on information or opinions about science and research	1	2	3	4	5	9

5. Have you visited the following institutions or attended the following events in the past twelve months? (*randomised order of items*)

	yes	no	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
science museums such as a technology museum or a natural history museum	1	2	9
events by or at scientific institutions such as a long night of science, an open house day or a science slam	1	2	9
zoo or aquarium	1	2	9

Note to the Interviewer/in case of questions: A science slam is a tournament of short presentations. Scientists explain their research topics in an easy way to the audience in a maximum of 10 minutes. The presentations should be as clear, vivid and captivating as possible.

6. I will now read out some reasons why one might occupy oneself with science and research. Please tell me to what extent you personally agree with each of the reasons. Or tell me if you do not occupy yourself with science and research at all.

I do not occupy myself with science and research. → do not read out again, but capture/code and continue with question no. 7

I occupy myself with science and research (*randomised order of items*)

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	don't know, missing answer
to acquire knowledge which is useful for school or work.	1	2	3	4	5	9
to have a say in conversations about science and research.	1	2	3	4	5	9
because I look for answers to specific questions that concern me.	1	2	3	4	5	9
because I find science and research fascinating.	1	2	3	4	5	9

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
Science and research are so complicated that I do not understand much of it.	1	2	3	4	5	9

Science and research relate so little to everyday life that they are not relevant to me.	1	2	3	4	5	9
At school I am or was taught how science and research work.	1	2	3	4	5	9
When scientists disagree, it is difficult for me to judge which information is correct.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Controversies between scientists are helpful because they help to ensure that the right research results prevail.	1	2	3	4	5	9

8. How much do you trust science and research?

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

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

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
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

10. 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	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
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
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

11. And who are according to the best of your knowledge funders of science and research in Germany? Please name all that you can think of. *(open-ended question)*

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

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
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
It should be allowed to conduct science and research into any area without restrictions.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Scientists work for the benefit of society.	1	2	3	4	5	9
It is important for me to know about science and research in my everyday life.	1	2	3	4	5	9
My life is affected by new	1	2	3	4	5	9

developments in science and research whether I like it or not.						
I can decide whether I make use of new developments in science and research.	1	2	3	4	5	9

13. 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
<i>don't know, missing answer</i>	9

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

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
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, which skills does someone have to possess to be a good scientist? Please tell me to what extent you agree with the following statements. He or she should...
(randomised order of items)

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	don't know, missing answer
... know a lot.	1	2	3	4	5	9
... be persistent.	1	2	3	4	5	9
... be curious.	1	2	3	4	5	9
... be honest.	1	2	3	4	5	9
... be a team player.	1	2	3	4	5	9
... be communicative.	1	2	3	4	5	9
... think about the common good.	1	2	3	4	5	9
... must not be guided by the interests of third parties.	1	2	3	4	5	9

16. Part of the scientific research process is also to replicate the work of other scientists. Therefore, studies are undertaken in the same way again to see if they deliver equivalent results. It has recently been reported that within MEDICINE/PSYCHOLOGY/BIOLOGY/ECONOMICS (SPLIT BALLOT with four groups) a certain number of replication studies did not deliver the same results.

Note to the interviewer/in case of questions: This question relates to the so-called replication crisis.

Have you heard or read about it in the media lately?

Yes	1
No	2
<i>don't know, missing answer</i>	9

17. Whether you have read or heard about it or not, how do you assess the situation? Considering that scientific results could not be confirmed in replication studies, please tell me to what extent you agree with the following statements (*randomised order of items*)

	completely agree	somewhat agree	undecided	somewhat disagree	completely disagree	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
It shows that you can not trust science and research in this field.	1	2	3	4	5	9
The replication shows that quality assurance takes place in science and research.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Errors and their corrections are part of science and research.	1	2	3	4	5	9

18. 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 have never worked in science and research	3
<i>don't know, missing answer</i>	9

Filter:

If at question 18: 1, 2 → questions no. 20

If at question 18: 3, 9 → questions no. 19

19. And do you know any scientists personally?

Yes	1
No	2
<i>don't know, missing answer</i>	9

20. 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

<i>don't know, missing answer</i>	9
---------------------------------------	---

Note to the interviewer: independent from religious affiliation or denomination

21. 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
<i>don't know, missing answer</i>	9