



## Questionnaire – Science Barometer 2021

(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	some-what strong	so-so	some-what low	very low	<i>don't know/missing answer</i>
politics	1	2	3	4	5	9
science and research	1	2	3	4	5	9
local news	1	2	3	4	5	9
economics and finance	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	some-times	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. (Note to the interviewer: Not on the internet.)	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. (Note to the interviewer: Not streamed online.)	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. 4*

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	some-times	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

4. 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

5. 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*)

	com- pletely agree	some- what agree	un- decided	some- what dis- agree	com- pletely dis- agree	<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

6. 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*)

	com- pletely agree	some- what agree	un- decided	some- what dis- agree	com- pletely dis- agree	<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

7. With regard to the relation of science and society: To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (*randomised order of items*)

	com- pletely agree	some- what agree	un- decided	some- what dis- agree	com- pletely dis- agree	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
Scientists put too little effort into informing the public about their work.	1	2	3	4	5	9
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
People trust too much in science and not enough in their feelings and faith.	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
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
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	1	2	3	4	5	9

ensure that the right research results prevail.						
Even if it brings no immediate benefits, research which advances knowledge, should be publicly funded.  <i>Note for the interviewer in case of queries: This question is about basic research. In contrast to applied research, which has the goal of developing a concrete product, basic research creates the foundation for new findings and serves to expand knowledge.</i>	1	2	3	4	5	9

8. If public expenditures have to be reduced, for example to avoid further public debt, how should spending on research be dealt with?

Research should be one of the first areas where public spending is reduced.	1
Public spending on research should be reduced in the same proportion as public spending in other areas.	2
If possible, public spending on research should not be reduced.	3
<i>don't know, missing answer</i>	9

9. In your opinion, how strong is the influence ... (NO randomised order of items)

	much too strong	some-what too strong	just right	some-what too low	much too low	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
... of science on politics?	1	2	3	4	5	9
... and the other way round: politics on science?	1	2	3	4	5	9

... and of business on science?	1	2	3	4	5	9
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10. With regard to the relation of science and politics: To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (*randomised order of items*)

	com-pletely agree	some-what agree	un-decided	some-what dis-agree	com-pletely dis-agree	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
Political decisions should be based on scientific evidence.	1	2	3	4	5	9
It is not up to scientists to get involved in politics.	1	2	3	4	5	9
It is right that scientists speak up in public when political decisions do not take research results into account.	1	2	3	4	5	9

*Statement from the interviewer:* The following questions are about the current coronavirus pandemic.

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

	com-pletely agree	some-what agree	un-decided	some-what dis-agree	com-pletely dis-agree	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
I think the current measures against coronavirus pandemic are appropriate.	1	2	3	4	5	9

I know a lot about the coronavirus.	1	2	3	4	5	9
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12. How much do you trust statements on the coronavirus pandemic made by the following actors? (*randomised order of items*)

Statements on the coronavirus pandemic...

	trust completely	trust somewhat	un-decided	distrust somewhat	distrust completely	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
by scientists	1	2	3	4	5	9
by doctors and medical staff	1	2	3	4	5	9
by politicians	1	2	3	4	5	9
by public authority officials	1	2	3	4	5	9
by journalists	1	2	3	4	5	9
by family members, acquaintances and friends	1	2	3	4	5	9

13. What role do you think scientists in Germany should play in political decision-making processes on the coronavirus pandemic? Please tell me which of the following statements you think is most true. (*NO randomised order of items*)

Scientists should recommend certain policy decisions to politicians based on scientific evidence.	1
Scientists should present politicians with a range of options for decision-making and explain consequences, but not recommend specific policy choices.	2



Scientists should limit themselves to informing politicians about scientific evidence.	3
<i>don't know, missing answer</i>	9

14. Now we would like to know if you think this is also how things works in reality. How do you **actually** perceive the role of scientists in Germany in political decision-making? Please tell me which of the following statements you think is most true. (*NO randomised order of items*)

Scientists recommend certain policy decisions to politicians based on scientific evidence.	1
Scientists present politicians with a range of options for decision-making and explain consequences, but do not recommend specific policy choices.	2
Scientists limit their involvement to informing politicians about scientific evidence.	3
<i>don't know, missing answer</i>	9

15. Against the background of the current developments surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, to what extent do you agree with the following statements? (*NO randomised order of items*)

	com- pletely agree	some- what agree	un- decided	some- what dis- agree	com- pletely dis- agree	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
I have an idea of the influence that advice from scientists has on political decision.	1	2	3	4	5	9
I have an idea of how the scientists who advise politicians are selected.	1	2	3	4	5	9

16. And against the background of the current developments surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, to what extent do you agree with the following statements?  
(NO randomised order of items)

	agree completely	some-what agree	un-decided	some-what dis-agree	com-pletely dis-agree	<i>don't know, missing answer</i>
We should rely more on common sense when dealing with the coronavirus pandemic and we do not need any scientific studies for this.	1	2	3	4	5	9
Scientists do not tell us everything they know about the coronavirus.	1	2	3	4	5	9
There is <b>no</b> real proof that the coronavirus really exists.	1	2	3	4	5	9
The coronavirus pandemic is being made into a bigger deal than it actually is.	1	2	3	4	5	9

17. 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</i>	9

<i>answer</i>	
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*Filter:*

*If at question 17: 1, 2 -> finish*

*If at question 17: 3, 9 -> questions no. 18*

18. And do you know any scientists personally?

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