

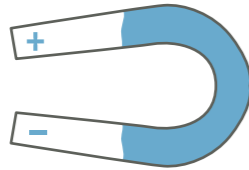
The State of Public Attitudes to Science

Enthusiasm for science

BENEFITS & HARM

The benefits of science are greater than any harmful effects (agree)

55%
[1988 45%]



SPEED OF CHANGE

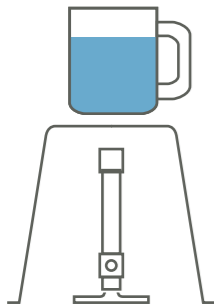
Science makes our way of life change too fast (agree)



SCIENCE IN DAILY LIFE

It is important to know about science in my daily life (agree)

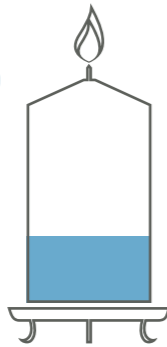
72%
[1988 57%]



SCIENCE & FAITH

We depend too much on science and not enough on faith

30%
[1988 44%]



Science and the economy

IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE INTEREST

91%
[16-24yrs 84%]

Young people's interest in science is essential for our future prosperity (agree)



SCIENCE & THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

81%
[16-24yrs 71%]

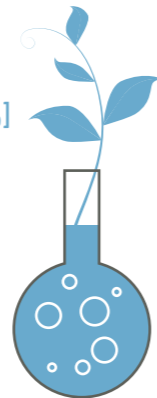
The UK needs to develop its science and technology sector in order to enhance its international competitiveness (agree)



SCIENCE & GROWTH

76%
[16-24yrs 73%]

Scientific research makes a direct contribution to economic growth in the UK (agree)



SCIENCE & OPPORTUNITY

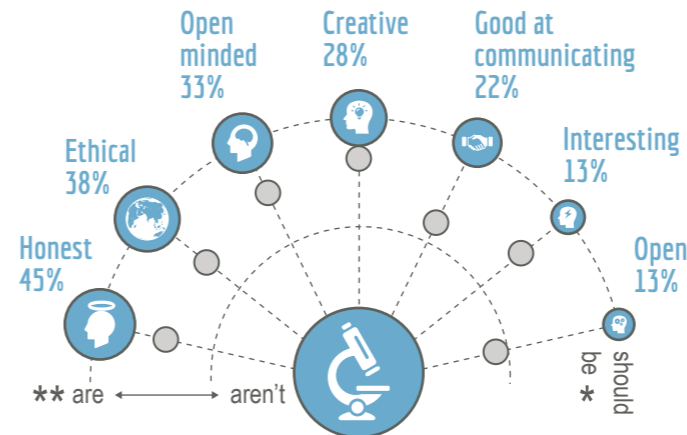
62%
[16-24yrs 63%]

Because of science and technology, there will be more work opportunities for the next generation (agree)



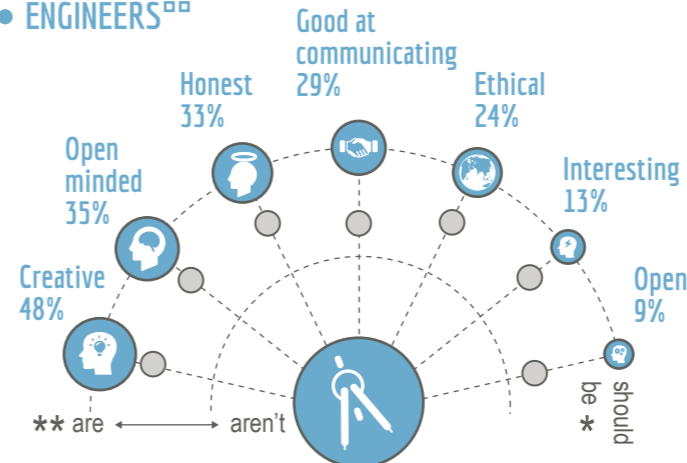
Expectations of scientists and engineers

SCIENTISTS[□]



... See notes for question wording and base size information ...

ENGINEERS^{□□}



Understanding of how scientists work

ADJUSTING THEIR FINDINGS

Scientists adjust their findings to get the answers they want



ETHICS



68%

I would like scientists to spend more time discussing the social and ethical implications of their work with the general public (agree)

INFORMATION



58%

Scientists put too little effort into informing the public about their work (agree)

REWARDS



53%

Scientists should be rewarded for communicating their research to the public (agree)

Engagement with Science

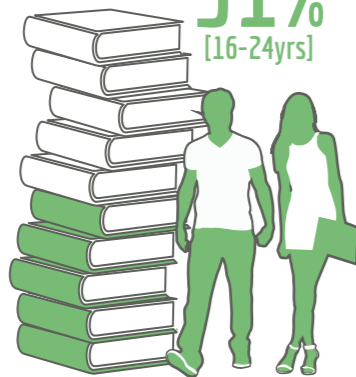
Public awareness

How well informed do you feel, if at all, about science, and scientific research and developments? (very/fairly well informed)

45%
[all]



51%
[16-24yrs]



Finding out about scientific research

ALL

TV - news	42%
TV - other	26%
Print newspapers	23%
Online - news	15%
Friends/family/colleagues	12%

16-24yrs

TV - news	34%
Online - news	24%
Social networks	19%
TV - other	17%
Friends/family/colleagues	13%

From which one or two of these, if any, do you hear or read about new scientific research findings most often?

90%
OFFLINE

31%
ONLINE

83%
OFFLINE

55%
ONLINE

Trust in science journalism

RELIABILITY



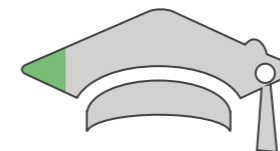
Journalists check the reliability of scientific research findings before they write about them

28%
[mostly/always true]

QUALIFICATIONS

Journalists who write stories about science have a science degree or similar qualification

16%
[mostly/always true]



Public involvement

NEW TECHNOLOGY



71%
[2005 74%]

We ought to hear about potential new areas of science and technology before they happen, not afterwards (agree)

DECISION MAKING



43%

I would like to know that the public are involved in decision-making about science issues, but I don't want to be involved personally



TECHNICAL NOTE

Public Attitudes to Science (PAS) 2014 is the fifth in a series of studies looking at attitudes to science, scientists and science policy among the UK public. The study was conducted by Ipsos MORI, in partnership with the British Science Association, on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and co-funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Ipsos MORI conducted 1,749 interviews with UK adults aged 16+ and a booster survey of 315 16-24 year-olds. Interviews were carried out face to face between 15th July and 18th November 2013.

All figures are based on all respondents (1,749 UK adults aged 16+) except where marked: 16-24 year-olds (510 UK adults aged 16-24), 1988 (2,009 GB adults aged 18+)
▫ 858 UK adults aged 16+ ▫ 891 UK adults aged 16+.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

visit: www.ipsos-mori.com/pas2014

Scientists and engineers questions:

Which one or two of these words or phrases do you think it is most important for scientists/engineers to be? / Which of each of these pairs of words or phrases comes closest to your current view of scientists/engineers?