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) 34% (1988 49%)
- **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**
  Young people's interest in science is essential for our future prosperity (agree) 81% (16-24yrs 71%)
- **SCIENCE & THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE**
  The UK needs to develop its science and technology sector in order to enhance its international competitiveness (agree) 81% (16-24yrs 63%)
- **SCIENCE & GROWTH**
  Scientific research makes a direct contribution to economic growth in the UK (agree) 76% (16-24yrs 73%)
- **SCIENCE & OPPORTUNITY**
  Because of science and technology, there will be more work opportunities for the next generation (agree) 62% (16-24yrs 63%)

**Expectations of scientists and engineers**
- **SCIENTISTS**
  Good at communicating 29% (agree)
  Creative 28% (agree)
  Good at ethical decision making 13% (agree)
  Open minded 35% (agree)
- **ENGINEERS**
  Good at communicating 29% (agree)
  Creative 24% (agree)
  Good at ethical decision making 13% (agree)
  Open minded 35% (agree)

**Understanding of how scientists work**
- **ADJUSTING THEIR FINDINGS**
  Scientists adjust their findings to get the answers they want 35% (agree)
  Scientists put too little effort into informing the public about their work (agree) 34% (agree)
- **ETHICS**
  Scientists should be rewarded for communicating their research to the public (agree) 58% (agree)
- **INFORMATION**
  Scientists adjust their findings to get the answers they want 35% (agree)
  Scientists put too little effort into informing the public about their work (agree) 34% (agree)

**Science and the economy**
- **SPEED OF CHANGE**
  Science makes our way of life change too fast (agree) 34% (1988 49%)
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**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)

**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)
- **Finding out about scientific research**
  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
- **Public involvement**
  We ought to hear about potential new areas of science and technology before they happen, not afterwards (agree) 71% (2005 74%)
  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 43%
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+.

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?

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