

**ÉCOLES NORMALES SUPÉRIEURES
ÉCOLE NATIONALE DES PONTS ET CHAUSSÉES
ÉCOLE DES MINES DE PARIS
ÉCOLES CENTRALE**

CONCOURS D'ADMISSION SESSION 2025

FILIÈRE BCPST

COMPOSITION DE LANGUE VIVANTE ÉTRANGÈRE

Épreuve commune aux ENS de Lyon, Paris, Paris-Saclay, à l'ENPC, aux Écoles centrale et aux Mines Paris

Durée : 2 heures

L'utilisation des calculatrices n'est pas autorisée pour cette épreuve.

L'usage de dictionnaire est interdit.

Parmi les sujets proposés, le candidat doit traiter celui correspondant à la langue vivante étrangère qu'il a choisie lors de son inscription.

Toute copie rédigée dans une langue qui ne correspondrait pas au choix apparaissant dans le dossier d'inscription définitif du candidat sera considérée comme nulle.

Sujets proposés :

- Allemand
- Anglais
- Espagnol

ANGLAIS

I. VERSION (12 points, titre à traduire également)

The Public Distrusts Scientists' Morals, Not Their Science

Our overlapping Trump and COVID eras have seen a fairly sharp downturn in public trust in scientists. Around one in 10 Americans report less support for science now than they did before COVID.

That was a November survey finding by the Pew Research Center. (...) In response, the president of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences said that the survey “gives us an opportunity to reexamine what we need to do to restore trust in science.”

But the diagnoses of the cause of a lack of trust by scientific leaders responding to the survey are variations on the same old ones, which is that the public does not understand science. That is a comfortable diagnosis for scientists, and therefore is unlikely to help with trust. The scientific community needs instead to consider that a lack of trust does not stem from the public's view of scientists as fact-finders, but rather from the public not trusting scientists' moral values. (...)

But why would the public think scientists do not share their moral values? The idea that scientists are morally deficient goes back centuries, and is reinforced to this day by fictional accounts of scientists where the “mad scientist” remains a trope. (...)

So I think scientists took the wrong lesson from COVID. A decline in trust was not primarily a result of the public misunderstanding science, but because scientists became associated with a set of politicized moral choices about prioritizing public health over commerce, education and individual freedom. Perhaps the association with these choices was inevitable or necessary, but we should not think that a loss of trust was generated by the public not understanding how vaccines work. (...)

I understand why the scientific community is reluctant to talk about its moral values. Part of the norms of science is to be “value-free,” and part of what creates legitimate results is to examine the data dispassionately. Scientists generally have no training in academic debates about morals, values and ethics. But pretending that scientists are just about the facts—and above any moral questions—is not working.

Adapted from *Scientific American*, December 18th, 2024

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-public-distrusts-scientists-morals-not-their-science/>

II. QUESTIONS (8 points, minimum de 100 mots par question)

1. According to the author what factors explain for the public's increased distrust in scientists?
2. Do you believe that science can and should be “value-free” and “above any moral questions”?