A Modern View of science?

The modern view of science is quite different from the one that sees it as yielding ultimate truths and providing proofs of objective theorems. It sees the characteristics which, in combination, define science as essentially these:

- **Science activity is about understanding that is arriving at possible explanations of and relationships between observed events, which enable predictions to be made.**

- **Science is a human endeavour, depending on creativity and imagination and on skills of gathering and interpreting evidence: it has changed in the past and will change in the future as human experience and understanding change.**

E.g. In the 1890's the Daily Telegraph was concerned that electric light would cause blindness. Because it was so bright and not natural light. Science soon disproved this theory.

- **The understanding, the theories, at any particular time are subject to change in the light of new evidence and so must be regarded as tentative at all times.**

E.g. Stephen Hawkins and modern Astronomers are exploring the cosmos with new and complex equipment. They are thus finding things out which are at the frontier of science and will alter existing human scientific knowledge.

- **The physical world around is the ultimate authority by which the validity of scientific theories and principles is to be judged. Whatever logic there seems to be in hypothetical explanations or relationships, they are only useful in so far as they agree with reality.**

(These four points are taken from Wynne Harlen 2000A p17 the italics are my comments Gordon Guest)