

Final Decision Worksheet

Comprehensive coaching vs self-study evaluation

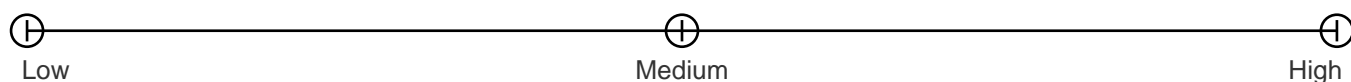
Instructions: Answer honestly. This worksheet is designed to help you choose the right path.

Section 1: Core Assessment (Yes/No)

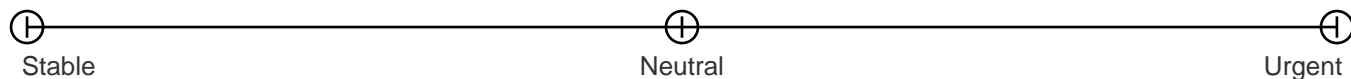
- 1. I have failed system design interviews before, or received unclear/negative feedback. Yes No
- 2. I understand interviewer expectations and can consistently structure a design end-to-end. Yes No
- 3. My first interview is within the next 12 weeks. Yes No
- 4. I'm targeting senior+ roles (Senior/Staff/Architect/Lead). Yes No

Section 2: Situational Factors (Rating scales)

Timeline urgency (How soon are interviews?)



Role satisfaction (How urgent is a change?)



Target companies (Competitiveness)



Constraints (Time / energy / life load)



Section 3: Preparation Profile

Fundamentals confidence (Low/Medium/High): _____

Learning style (Self-directed / Structured): _____

Practice capacity per week (hours): _____

Budget (None / Limited / Flexible): _____

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Section 4: Scoring Guide

Core Assessment scoring (Section 1):

- Q1 Yes = +2
 - Q2 No = +2
 - Q3 Yes = +2
 - Q4 Yes = +1
- Total core score range: 0–7

Your Core Score: / 7

Interpretation:

- 0–2: Self-study viable (use occasional mocks if needed)
- 3–5: Hybrid recommended (self-study + targeted coaching)
- 6–7: Coaching recommended (high ROI, compress feedback loop)

Section 5: Decision Matrix (quick grid)

Timeline Urgency	Low	Medium	High
Core Score 0–2	Self-study	Self-study + mocks	Hybrid (add coaching)
Core Score 3–5	Hybrid	Hybrid	Coaching recommended
Core Score 6–7	Coaching optional	Coaching recommended	Coaching recommended

Section 6: Next Steps (choose one and act this week)

Self-Study Path (Week 1):

- Pick 5 core topics and one system design framework (write it down).
- Do 2 full designs out loud (45–60 min each).
- Schedule 1 mock/peer review within 14 days.

Coaching Path (Week 1):

- Book a baseline mock to identify top 3 failure patterns.
- Commit to a weekly cadence: mock + daily practice.
- Capture feedback into a checklist and re-run the same problem.

Hybrid Path (Week 1):

- Self-study fundamentals for 2 weeks + one targeted coaching session.
- Practice 3 problems using the same structure; compare improvements.
- Decide after Week 2: more self-study or more coaching.