

System Design Interview Self-Assessment Checklist

Rate yourself 1-5 after each interview

	Rating (1 = Low, 5 = High)				
	1	2	3	4	5
SECTION 1 - Problem Framing (Trust Signal 1)					
<input type="checkbox"/> I spent 5-7 minutes clarifying requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I asked about scale, consistency, and constraints	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I restated the problem to confirm understanding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I identified success criteria upfront	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SECTION 2 - Logical Decomposition (Trust Signal 2)					
<input type="checkbox"/> I started with simple architecture first	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I explained my component choices clearly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I evolved the design incrementally	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I avoided jumping to complex solutions immediately	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SECTION 3 - Thoughtful Prioritization (Trust Signal 3)					
<input type="checkbox"/> I discussed trade-offs for major decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I explained what I'm NOT optimizing for	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I considered costs, operations, and maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I addressed failure modes and monitoring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SECTION 4 - Calm Decision-Making (Trust Signal 4)					
<input type="checkbox"/> I thought out loud when uncertain	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't go silent for long periods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I adjusted based on interviewer feedback	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I acknowledged gaps honestly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Scoring

- 17-20: Strong interview performance
- 13-16: Good foundation, minor gaps
- 9-12: Needs practice on multiple dimensions
- Below 9: Requires systematic framework improvement

Next Steps

- Items scored 1-2: Priority practice areas
- Items scored 3: Need refinement
- Items scored 4-5: Maintain and polish