

Electrical Engineer interview checklist

Most electrical hiring runs as a written or online technical test for freshers, one or two technical rounds with a senior electrical or maintenance engineer, sometimes a site visit or drawing-reading task, and a final HR discussion.

10 QUESTIONS TO PRACTISE OUT LOUD

1. What is the relationship between line and phase values in star and delta connections?

What it checks: Whether your three-phase basics are solid enough to calculate currents and voltages on a real panel without confusing line and phase quantities.

2. Describe a breakdown that stopped production on your shift and how you got the line running again.

What it checks: How you work under pressure, whether you follow safe isolation even when rushed, and whether you fix the root cause, not just the symptom.

3. Are you comfortable with site postings, rotating shifts and travel for commissioning work?

What it checks: Whether your expectations match the job conditions, since many electrical roles involve plant shifts, remote sites or long commissioning stretches.

4. Why does a low power factor matter, and how would you size a capacitor bank to correct it?

What it checks: Whether you understand reactive power in practical terms, including losses, cable and transformer loading and utility penalties, and can do the correction calculation.

5. Tell me about a time you stopped work because electrical safety rules were not being followed.

What it checks: Whether you treat permits, isolation and PPE as non-negotiable, and can enforce them with contractors without damaging the working relationship.

6. Why do you want a core electrical engineering job rather than moving into IT like many of your batchmates?

What it checks: Whether a fresher genuinely wants core engineering work and is likely to stay, rather than treating the job as a stop-gap.

7. How do you select the cable size for a 30 kW motor feeder?

What it checks: Whether you follow a full sizing method, covering current, derating, voltage drop and fault withstand, instead of picking a size from memory.

8. Give an example of a project where you had to finish electrical work inside a tight shutdown window.

What it checks: Your planning discipline: preparation before the shutdown, coordination with other trades and how you handle surprises when the clock is running.

9. What salary are you expecting for this electrical engineer role, and what is your notice period?

What it checks: Whether your expectation is realistic and well reasoned, and whether your joining timeline fits their project schedule.

10. Why is a transformer rated in kVA and not in kW?

What it checks: Whether you understand transformer losses and why the rating cannot depend on load power factor, a classic check of basic machine theory.

TIPS FOR THIS INTERVIEW

- Revise three-phase power, transformer losses, induction motor starting and power factor correction until you can solve a numerical on paper without notes.
- Carry one single line diagram from your project or internship and be ready to explain every breaker, CT, relay and cable on it.
- Learn the standard pre-commissioning tests for transformers, cables, motors and panels, with the instrument used for each one.
- Prepare a real safety story about isolation, lockout or permits, because interviewers for site and plant roles almost always ask one.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Confirm the time, venue or video link and the interviewer's name
- ☐ Plan your route and leave time for traffic, or test your camera, microphone and internet
- ☐ Keep copies of your resume, ID proof, certificates and photographs in a folder
- ☐ Iron your clothes and charge your phone and laptop
- ☐ Do one final run-through of your introduction, then stop and rest

ON THE DAY

- ☐ Arrive 15 minutes early, or log in 5–10 minutes early for a video call
- ☐ Greet everyone politely, including the receptionist or coordinator
- ☐ Listen to the full question, pause, then answer in a clear structure
- ☐ Take brief notes of names and key points
- ☐ Ask your prepared questions and confirm the next steps before you leave