

Electronic Engineering Technician interview questions

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What to expect

Interviews for electronic engineering technician roles typically combine a conversation about your technical background with a practical assessment. Employers want to see that you can fault-find methodically, work safely and communicate clearly with engineers and other trades.

- **Technical knowledge:** Questions about circuit theory, test equipment, schematics and standards you've worked with.
- **Fault-finding scenario:** A description of a faulty piece of equipment, asking you to explain how you would diagnose it.
- **Behavioural:** Past examples of teamwork, problem solving and attention to detail.
- **Process and quality:** How you record test results, follow procedures and handle calibration.
- **Safety and compliance:** Your understanding of WHS, EMC and relevant Australian standards.

Usually a phone or video screen first, then a face-to-face or site interview with a supervisor or engineer. You may be asked to complete a practical test, such as soldering a small circuit, using a multimeter to find a fault, or interpreting a schematic. Some employers include a short written or online test on electronics fundamentals.

1. Walk me through how you would diagnose a fault in a piece of electronic equipment that has no power.

Why they ask

Tests your systematic approach and familiarity with test instruments.

How to structure your answer

Use a logical step-by-step: safety first, visual inspection, then testing from the power source outward, describing the instruments you'd use and how you'd isolate the fault.

Example answer

"First I'd isolate the equipment and check for any obvious signs of damage, like blown fuses or burnt components. I'd make sure it's safe to work on. Then I'd start at the power inlet with a multimeter, checking for mains voltage and then downstream at the power supply output. If the supply is working, I'd move to the main board and check for regulated voltages. Using a schematic, I'd trace the power rail until I found where the voltage dropped out. I'd also check for any error codes or LEDs. Once I found the fault, I'd repair or replace the component and then retest the unit under load."

2. Describe a time you had to solve a technical problem under pressure. What did you do?

Why they ask

Behavioural question to see how you handle stress and use your problem-solving skills.

How to structure your answer

STAR: Situation, Task, Action, Result. Keep it concise and focus on your actions and the outcome.

Example answer

"At my previous job, a critical production line stopped because a control panel was showing a communication error. The line was losing output every minute. I was the only technician on shift. I quickly grabbed the schematics and a multimeter. I checked the communication cable and found a broken wire near a connector. I didn't have a spare cable, so I temporarily repaired it by soldering the wire and insulating it properly. That got the line running again within 20 minutes. I then ordered a

replacement cable and fitted it the next day. The supervisor appreciated the quick fix and we avoided a long shutdown."

3. How do you ensure your test results and calibration records are accurate and complete?

Why they ask

Assesses attention to detail and compliance with quality systems.

How to structure your answer

Talk about your process: standardised templates, double-checking, calibration intervals, and how you handle out-of-tolerance results.

Example answer

"I always use the approved test sheets or electronic forms, and I record values as I go, not from memory. For calibration, I check the due dates before I start and use a calibrated reference instrument. If a measurement is out of tolerance, I flag it immediately, adjust if possible, and document the before and after readings. I also make sure any changes are signed off by the appropriate engineer. At the end of a job, I review the record for completeness before filing it. This helped us pass an external quality audit with no findings on records last year."

4. What Australian standards or regulatory requirements are you familiar with for electronic equipment?

Why they ask

Checks your knowledge of compliance relevant to the role.

How to structure your answer

Name specific standards and regulations, and briefly explain how you've applied them.

Example answer

"I've worked with AS/NZS 3000 for electrical installations when doing site work, and I'm familiar with ACMA requirements for electromagnetic compatibility and telecommunications cabling. I've also followed IPC-A-610 and J-STD-001 for soldering and assembly quality. In my current role, I help maintain our EMC test documentation for new products and ensure our lab practices meet ISO 9001. I keep up to date with changes through Standards Australia alerts and internal training."

5. This role involves working from schematics and technical manuals. Can you give an example of a complex schematic you've worked from and how you approached it?

Why they ask

Tests your ability to interpret technical documents, a core skill.

How to structure your answer

Describe the context, how you broke down the schematic, any challenges, and the outcome.

Example answer

"I once had to repair a multi-layer control board for a medical imaging device. The schematic was 12 pages and included a mix of digital and analogue sections. I started by identifying the power distribution and then focused on the signal path for the faulty channel. I used a highlighter on a printed copy to mark the components I'd tested, and cross-referenced with the board layout to find test points. It took a few hours, but I traced the fault to a failed capacitor in a filter. Replacing it fixed the channel and saved the customer a costly replacement board."

6. How do you handle a situation where you can't fix a fault yourself and need to escalate it?

Why they ask

Assesses teamwork, communication and knowing your limits.

How to structure your answer

Explain your process for documenting the issue, who you'd escalate to, and how you'd communicate clearly.

Example answer

"I first make sure I've done a thorough diagnosis and documented everything I've tried, including measurements and any error messages. Then I'd approach the responsible engineer or supervisor with a clear summary: what the fault is, what I've ruled out, and what I suspect. I'd ask for their advice or whether we need to order a replacement part or send the unit to the manufacturer. I also update the job record so the next person has the full history. I think it's important to know when to stop and ask for help rather than risk further damage."