# Electronics Technician interview questions

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## What to expect

Electronics Technician interviews blend practical fault-finding with safety and compliance checks. Employers want to see how you think through a fault, how you handle pressure when equipment is down, and how you document your work. The interview may include a short practical test on a test bench.

- **Technical fault finding:** Questions that ask you to walk through diagnosis of a circuit, sensor or power supply fault, often using a real or hypothetical scenario.
- **Safety and compliance:** Questions about lockout/tagout, testing for dead, working to Australian standards, and keeping records for audits.
- **Scenario and judgement:** Questions about what you do when equipment fails under time pressure, when a client is waiting, or when a fault is beyond your scope.
- **Behavioural and teamwork:** Questions that ask for examples of past work with supervisors, production staff or clinical teams.
- **Client-facing communication:** Questions about explaining technical issues to non-technical people and managing expectations.

The process often starts with a phone screen with a recruiter, then a technical interview with a supervisor or senior technician. That technical interview may include a practical test on a breadboard or a test bench, reading a schematic or diagnosing a deliberately faulty circuit. Some employers add a site walk-through and a short chat with the team. A final offer stage may include a medical and a police check for defence or medical work.

## 1. Walk me through how you would diagnose an intermittent fault in a control panel.

**Why they ask**

This tests your fault-finding method and how you use test equipment without guessing.

**How to structure your answer**

A walk-through: describe how you gather information, isolate the circuit, test methodically, and document the result.

**Example answer**

*“I start by checking the fault history and the schematics to understand what the panel controls. I isolate the circuit and do a visual inspection for loose terminals, heat damage or corrosion. Then I test voltages and continuity with a multimeter, and if the fault is intermittent I use an oscilloscope to look at signal integrity over time. I tap and flex wiring gently to see if the fault appears. Once I find the cause, I repair or replace the part, then run the system through a full cycle to confirm the fix. I record what I found and what I did in the maintenance log.”*

## 2. Tell me about a time you found a fault that others had missed.

**Why they ask**

This looks at your attention to detail and persistence, and whether you can explain a technical win clearly.

**How to structure your answer**

STAR: situation, task, action, result.

**Example answer**

*“At a previous workplace, a conveyor kept tripping on random shifts. Two other technicians had checked it and reset the breaker. I reviewed the fault log and noticed it only happened after washdown. I inspected the motor junction box and found a tiny crack in a seal that let moisture in. I replaced the seal and the terminal block, and the tripping stopped. I wrote up the fix so the next person would know to check the seals after washdown.”*

## 3. You are called to a medical imaging device showing a calibration error, and the clinical team is waiting. How do you handle it?

**Why they ask**

This tests judgement under pressure, client communication and knowing when to escalate.

**How to structure your answer**

Judgement under pressure: assess safety, communicate clearly, follow procedure, escalate if needed.

**Example answer**

*“First I confirm the error and check whether the device is safe to use or must be taken out of service. I tell the clinical lead what I am doing and give a realistic time estimate. I run the calibration checks in the service manual, and if the fault is something I can fix, I do it and re-test. If it needs a part I do not have or is beyond my scope, I escalate to the senior technician or the manufacturer and keep the clinical team informed. I document everything.”*

## 4. What safety checks do you complete before working on live equipment?

**Why they ask**

This checks your commitment to Australian WHS and electrical safety rules, and whether you can describe a safe system of work.

**How to structure your answer**

A list or walk-through of your safety process, in order.

**Example answer**

*“I only work live if there is no reasonable alternative and I have authorisation. I complete a risk assessment, set up lockout/tagout, test for dead with a proven tester, and use insulated tools and PPE. I check that the area is safe for others, and I follow AS/NZS 4836 for low voltage work. If I am testing live, I use a meter rated for the category and I keep one hand free where possible. After the job, I remove locks and tags and restore the equipment.”*

## 5. How do you keep your calibration and maintenance records organised?

**Why they ask**

This looks at your documentation and compliance habits, which matter for audits and service history.

**How to structure your answer**

A process description: what system you use, what you record, how you make it useful.

**Example answer**

*“I use the CMMS to log each job as I go, not at the end of the week. I record the fault, the tests I ran, the readings I got, the parts I used and the next calibration due date. If I take photos or test printouts, I attach them. I flag any equipment that is out of specification so the supervisor can decide on repair or replacement. That way the service history is clear if there is an audit or a repeat fault.”*

## 6. Describe a time you had to explain a technical issue to a non-technical client or supervisor.

**Why they ask**

This tests your client-facing communication and whether you can avoid jargon when it matters.

**How to structure your answer**

STAR, with emphasis on the communication action.

**Example answer**

*“A production manager once asked why a sensor kept failing. I explained that dust was building up on the lens and causing false readings, without using terms like photoelectric or hysteresis. I recommended a different mounting angle and a simple daily wipe-down. He approved the change, and the failures stopped. I followed up with a one-page note for the operators so they knew what to check.”*