

AGENTIC AMIT

The AI-native tech interview playbook

A practical, write-in guide for framing problems, working with AI, and making your judgment visible.

prompting is not the skill. ownership is.

Learn it. Practise it. Explain it.

Three signals interviewers can see

AI makes the first draft easier. Your value moves toward judgment, communication, and ownership.



1. Work with people

STRONG SIGNAL

Aligns on the goal, adapts to feedback, and explains tradeoffs in plain language.

WATCH FOR

Disappears into implementation or becomes defensive about an early idea.



2. Work with AI

STRONG SIGNAL

Provides useful context, scopes the task, inspects the output, and verifies the behavior.

WATCH FOR

Accepts the first plausible answer or narrates prompts instead of decisions.



3. Ask better questions

STRONG SIGNAL

Surfaces ambiguity, missing constraints, and risky assumptions before they become bugs.

WATCH FOR

Solves confidently before the problem is clear or ignores what the answers change.

Frame the problem

A strong interview answer starts with a clear target. Slow down here so you can move faster later.

Six questions worth asking

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | What is the user trying to accomplish? | 2 | Which outcome matters most? |
| 3 | What constraint could change my approach? | 4 | What is deliberately out of scope? |
| 5 | What am I assuming without evidence? | 6 | How will I know this works? |

Your problem frame

Write one sentence before you open the tool.

The user and desired outcome

What success looks like

Constraints that matter

Assumptions I am making

The biggest remaining risk

Use AI without losing ownership

The tool can do more of the work. You still need to decide what to ask for, what to trust, and what to change.



Write your AI task brief

If you cannot verify it, make the task smaller.

Context the model needs

The smallest useful task

The output I expect

How I will verify it

What I will not delegate

Make your thinking easy to follow

You do not need a polished speech. You need a few clear sentences that show how your decisions connect.

CLARIFY

My understanding is _____. Is that the right target?

DECIDE

I am choosing _____ because _____.

TRADEOFF

This optimizes for _____ at the cost of _____.

CHALLENGE AI

The model assumed _____. I am checking that by _____.

RECOVER

That result changes my approach because _____.

CLOSE

I used AI for _____, verified _____, and would next _____.

Your 60-second summary

The problem was _____. I chose _____ because _____. The main tradeoff was _____. AI helped with _____. I verified _____. Next I would _____.

The 45-minute interview drill

Use one unfamiliar codebase and one small feature. Explain your decisions out loud throughout the exercise.

0-5

Define

Write the expected behavior, constraints, and definition of done.

5-15

Orient

Ask AI to explain the relevant code and propose a plan. Challenge anything vague.

15-30

Build

Implement in small steps. Run the code after each meaningful change.

30-40

Break it

Find one bad assumption, missing test, or incorrect behavior. Fix it.

40-45

Present

Explain the problem, your choice, the AI's role, what you verified, and what comes next.

THE STANDARD

Use AI to increase leverage without outsourcing your judgment.

Score yourself, then run it again

Circle one number for each signal. The goal is not a perfect score. It is knowing what to improve next.

Practice scorecard

1 = needs work 5 = interview ready

Problem framing	1	2	3	4	5
Collaboration	1	2	3	4	5
AI direction	1	2	3	4	5
Verification	1	2	3	4	5
Communication	1	2	3	4	5

Debrief while it is fresh

One decision I explained well

One assumption I caught

One moment I surrendered too much ownership

The one change I will make next time

RUN IT AGAIN

Repeat the drill after one change. Look for visible improvement, not perfection.

Keep ownership visible

Use this page as a final reminder. The interviewer should always know what you decided, why, and how you checked it.

BEFORE YOU CODE

- ☐ Restate the problem.
- ☐ Confirm success criteria.
- ☐ Name your assumptions.

WHILE YOU USE AI

- ☐ Keep tasks small.
- ☐ Read the output.
- ☐ Test the behavior.

WHEN YOU EXPLAIN

- ☐ Name the tradeoff.
- ☐ Say what you verified.
- ☐ Share the remaining risk.

Four red flags to avoid

- Copying the first output.
- Hiding uncertainty.
- Narrating prompts, not decisions.
- Skipping verification.

Do not prepare to beat the AI.

Prepare to show what you can do with it.

FURTHER READING

[Google: AI at work](#) • [Amazon: AI in hiring](#) • [Cerebras: AI-native interviews](#)