5 Questions to Ask Before Implementing AI

A quick decision-maker's checklist to spot opportunities, avoid costly missteps, and align AI with business goals

Why This Matters

AI can be transformative, but it's not a magic fix. Without the right framing, AI projects risk wasted investment, stalled adoption, or unintended consequences.

This checklist helps leaders quickly assess whether an AI initiative is aligned, feasible, and worth pursuing, so resources are invested where they'll have the greatest impact.

💡 Tip: The best AI projects start with a clearly defined business need and are guided by responsible governance from day one.

The 5 Questions

1. What problem are we solving?

AI should address a real, high-priority challenge, not just be deployed because it's "trending."

Consider:
- Is this problem strategic (affecting growth, competitiveness) or operational (affecting efficiency)?
- Is it well-defined and understood across stakeholders?
- Do we have clear success criteria?

2. How will this create measurable business value?

An AI project is only successful if it delivers tangible results.

Consider:
- What KPIs will define success (e.g., revenue growth, cost savings, customer retention, employee productivity)?
- How will ROI be calculated and reported?
- Will benefits be immediate, or realized over time?

3. Do we have the right data, talent, and technology?

Strong AI requires the right inputs and capabilities.

Consider:
- Is our data accessible, accurate, relevant, and compliant with regulations?
- Do we have the skills internally, or will we need partners?
- Is our infrastructure capable of supporting development, integration, and scaling?

4. How will we govern and manage risk?

Responsible AI adoption demands strong governance.

Consider:
- Are ethical, compliance, and privacy frameworks in place?
- Do we have processes for bias detection, model explainability, and accountability?
- Who owns decisions made (or influenced) by AI?

5. Are we prepared to scale if it works?

A successful pilot should have a path to wider adoption.

Consider:
- How will we resource and fund expansion?
- Can it integrate with existing systems and workflows?
- Will the benefits still hold at scale?

Quick Readiness Check (optional scoring feature)

Rate each question from 1 (Not Ready) to 5 (Fully Ready):

Question	Score (1-5)
1. Problem	
2. Value	
3. Capabilities	
4. Governance	
5. Scaling	

Total Score (max 25):

- **20–25:** Strong readiness — move to detailed planning.
- **15–19:** Some gaps — address before moving forward.
- **Below 15:** Significant readiness issues — revisit fundamentals.

Your Next Step

Having the right answers is as important as asking the right questions.

SG+I helps leaders translate AI ideas into strategies that:
- Align with core business priorities
- Deliver measurable outcomes
- Integrate ethical and governance best practices
- Scale successfully across the organization

Book a 30-Minute AI Readiness Session
[Book Now] | [Visit Website]