Spreadsheet AI Readiness Score

General Assembly — Scoring rules

How to score

Give the spreadsheet 1 point for each risk present. Before giving the file to AI, ask: what would a competent stranger misunderstand?

	Danger point	Why it matters
☐	Multiple tables on one sheet	AI may mix unrelated blocks.
☐	Merged cells	Breaks normal row/column structure.
☐	More than one header row	AI may choose the wrong header.
☐	Blank spacer rows or columns	AI may think the table has ended.
☐	Totals/subtotals mixed into the data	AI may double-count.
☐	Colour or font carries meaning	AI may miss the business meaning.
☐	Hidden rows, filtered rows, or hidden sheets	AI may not know what is included or excluded.
☐	Comments or notes in random cells	Context may be detached from the data.
☐	Dates, numbers, or categories are inconsistent	AI may group or calculate incorrectly.
☐	Formulas encode business rules	AI may read the formula but not understand the rule.
☐	Pivot table or dashboard export	AI may not know the source, refresh date, or filters.
☐	External links, macros, or Power Query	AI may not see the real data lineage.
☐	Acronyms/status codes are unexplained	AI may guess meanings.
☐	No source or as-of date	AI cannot tell whether the data is current.
☐	Classification/handling caveat is unclear	AI use may be inappropriate or restricted.

Interpret the score

Score	Meaning
0–2	Probably AI-friendly.
3–5	Usable, but give context.
6–8	Risky. Clean or explain before using AI.
9+	High risk. Treat as a human-designed artefact, not clean data.