

Head of Platform Engineering

Responsible for the strategy, reliability, scalability, and operability of the organisation's platform and cloud environments. Leads platform teams, defines operational standards, and ensures platform capabilities enable the organisation's technical goals.

Candidates should use the **STAR method** (Situation, Task, Action, Result). This assessment is about demonstrated experience, not theoretical understanding.

A - Platform & Cloud Knowledge

00:10 - UK-SPEC IEng/CEng A / SFIA IFDN / SLEN Level 5-6

Applied understanding of cloud architectures, infrastructure design, and operational characteristics with engineering principles and long-term architectural foresight.

What to look for:

- Strong applied understanding of cloud architectures and operational characteristics at scale
 - Justifies platform design choices using sound engineering principles and cost-benefit analysis
 - Demonstrates appreciation of architectural evolution and long-term technical implications
 - Considers reliability, performance, cost-efficiency, and maintainability in platform decisions
 - Understands system risk, failure domains, blast radius, and operational boundaries
 - Applies lifecycle engineering practices (DevOps, SRE, automation) to platform operations
 - Designs infrastructure ensuring scalability, security, and alignment with strategic objectives
 - Balances immediate operational needs with long-term platform sustainability
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B - Design & Problem Solving

00:15 - UK-SPEC IEng/CEng B / SFIA DESN / SINT / SCTY Level 5-6

Diagnosing and resolving complex platform, cloud, and reliability issues using structured engineering methods and security-conscious design.

What to look for:

- Diagnoses and resolves complex cloud, infrastructure, scaling, and reliability issues
 - Designs platform systems using consistent, repeatable engineering methods and patterns
 - Solves cross-organisational or multi-platform issues with structured analysis and systemic thinking
 - Considers security, resilience, compliance, and lifecycle impact in all platform designs
 - Performs risk-based evaluation of technical options with clear trade-off analysis
 - Leads systems integration work ensuring components operate cohesively at scale
 - Embeds security controls and practices throughout platform architecture
 - Delivers solutions that prove robust, maintainable, and operable in production
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C - Leadership & Governance

00:20 - UK-SPEC CEng/IEng C / SFIA PEMT / SLEN / GOVN Level 5-6

Leading platform teams, defining governance and operational standards, and creating strategic platform direction.

What to look for:

- Leads Platform, DevOps, SRE, or Infrastructure teams with clear objectives and accountability
- Defines governance, operational standards, SLOs/SLIs, change control, and incident processes
- Creates platform strategy, roadmaps, and multi-year capability evolution plans
- Balances operational stability with strategic investment in new capabilities
- Demonstrates leadership through crisis management, major incidents, and operational events
- Develops lifecycle engineering capabilities including automation and continuous improvement

- Establishes decision-making frameworks and escalation paths for platform operations
 - Builds and retains high-performing platform engineering teams
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D - Communication & Influence

00:25 - UK-SPEC IEng/CEng D / SFIA RLMT / CNSL Level 5-6

Communicating platform concepts clearly, influencing investment decisions, and facilitating cross-functional alignment.

What to look for:

- Communicates platform concepts, risks, constraints, and operational impacts clearly
 - Presents trade-offs, cost implications, and reliability considerations effectively to stakeholders
 - Influences senior stakeholders on platform investments, priorities, and strategic direction
 - Facilitates alignment across engineering, product, data, security, and operations teams
 - Acts as trusted advisor in technical and operational decision-making
 - Tailors communication to diverse audiences (executives, engineers, product, finance)
 - Builds credibility through delivery, transparency, and operational excellence
 - Negotiates resources, priorities, and commitments across organisational boundaries
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E - Standards & Continuous Improvement

00:30 - UK-SPEC IEng/CEng E / SFIA PDSV / QUAS / SCTY Level 5-6

Driving continuous improvement in reliability and quality, embedding security and compliance, and developing platform engineering capability.

What to look for:

- Drives continuous improvement in reliability, operability, quality, and efficiency
 - Champions secure-by-design, compliance, defensive engineering, and operational discipline
 - Establishes frameworks for training, mentoring, career development, and capability growth
 - Ensures adherence to organisational, ethical, regulatory, and professional obligations
 - Role-models professional behaviour, engineering standards, and operational excellence
 - Conducts quality assurance and reviews to ensure platform meets standards
 - Embeds security strategy and controls at platform design and operational levels
 - Creates learning culture through incident reviews, retrospectives, and knowledge sharing
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Scoring Matrix

Thresholds: 20+ is a pass

Competency	1	2	3	4	5
A - Platform & Cloud Knowledge					
B - Design & Problem Solving					
C - Leadership & Governance					
D - Communication & Influence					
E - Standards & Continuous Improvement					