

# Code Review Checklist

## About

This checklist hopes to provide a basic quality gate that can be applied to most code reviews.

Once you've reviewed the same code a number of times, it can be tempting just to check for a few basic issues and waive code through, but it is incumbent on the reviewer to catch all issues as early as possible.

## Limitations

While I would hope there is some value here for any language, it is primarily designed with OO languages in mind.

N.B. modern code quality tools now take care of some of these, but the general principles still stand.

## Advisory

I would suggest that all code is reviewed with the same rigour whether it purports to be throw away code or changes to production code.

Today's quick fix is tomorrow's technical debt.

## Checklist

Check	Category	Pass/Fail
Does the code solve the problem	Requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are class and variable names meaningful	Readability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the code readable and maintainable	Readability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Could the code be more efficient	Cruft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are there orphan/empty methods that could be removed	Cruft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the code compile without warnings	Code Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have ReSharper or other code quality tool warnings been dealt with	Code Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the code free of magic numbers or literals	Code Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are parameters correctly validated	Code Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the code follow SOLID principles	Code Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the code follow DRY principles	Code Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the code style consistent	Code Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are exceptions handled gracefully	Code Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are unit tests present	Testing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Check	Category	Pass/Fail
Do the unit tests pass	Testing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is there any new code not covered by a unit test	Testing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Can the code be run	Testing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have TODOs been dealt	Comments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has commented out code been removed	Comments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are there comments that simply describe clear code	Comments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are there comments that describe complex code that should be refactored	Comments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are there comments that will require maintenance for simple code changes	Comments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**To keep things simple, I've marked only one category per check, even though several could apply in practice.**

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