

# Sample Checklists

Each of our checklists are lists of 10 open questions to foster critical thinking about a subject and evaluate your perspectives on the topics reviewed in a given chapter of *The Definitive Guide to Thriving on Disruption*. You can use these checklists as tools to solidify key takeaways after reviewing a chapter section, or as a **refresher to the most important concepts** long after that. Checklists are applicable in a variety of situations, such as when beginning a new project or evaluating your own mindset.

We have selected two checklists that address themes covered in the Guidebook to offer as a sample. These two checklists have been **selected from around 30 other checklists that exist throughout the Guidebook**. Each checklist is specifically designed to help both individuals and organizations prepare for and drive disruption.

We hope you find our sample checklists useful!



## Your UN-VICE Checklist

Our UN-VICE (UNknown, Volatile, Intersecting, Complex, Exponential) is a way to decipher the world and our changing circumstances. In an uncertain and unpredictable world, experts and their advice are less helpful now than they've ever been, and their helpfulness continues to decrease. All advice should be carefully considered, with an emphasis on developing your own capabilities to evaluate a situation and trusting your powers.

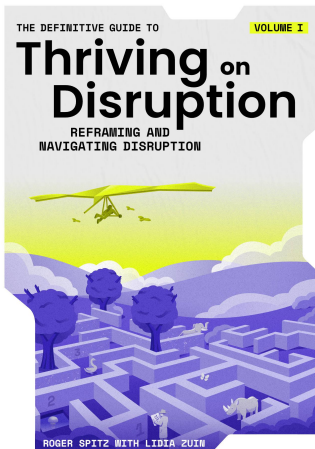
- How can you focus less on rote knowledge or answers, and more on asking **high-quality questions**?
- How are you experiencing **faster shifts and greater changes**, and how can you prepare yourself for them?
- Where are rapid rates of change **sneaking under your radar**?
- How can you embrace **unknown areas** further as opportunities and possibilities?
- If you knew **more systems were rapidly shifting**, how would you respond?
- Where in your life are seemingly **disparate changes multiplying each other**?
- Where can you connect previously **separate fields**?
- Which of your **strategic and analytic tools** will break down in the face of complexity and unpredictability? What strategies and approaches will you use instead?
- How reliant are you on **experts**? Do you believe that there are answers to everything?
- Do you perceive the world as **controllable and predictable**? How comfortable are you with unpredictability and the need to experiment to “emerge?”



## Checklist to Bridging the Future Readiness Gap

Below are 10 considerations which organizations can consider to establish their degree of future-savviness:

- Language:** The degree to which the leadership teams use future-focused language as part of everyday vocabulary. For example, the extent to which the organization uses language such as “*this is impossible*,” “*it has never happened before*,” “*this is the way it is done*,” “*this is unprecedented*,” “*it has always worked in the past*.”
- Capabilities and mindset:** Awareness of futures thinking within the company. Extent of capabilities from the foresight and futures fields at the level of the board of directors and leadership teams.
- Timeframes:** Frequency of exploring multiple possible futures with longer timeframes (beyond five and even 10 years). Systematic consideration of longer time horizons, with framework to balance short-term with long-term decision-making and performance.
- Investigating change:** Processes to monitor and evaluate weak signals, emerging issues, patterns of change, and next-order implications.
- Decision-making:** Understanding, within the leadership teams, of sense-making and decision-making for complex and unpredictable environments.
- No surprises:** The false perception that there are usually limited surprises. “*Disruption*,” “*changing environments*,” and “*transformational change*” happen, but they are not perceived to be frequent for the organization, nor its established activities. In reality, disruption is a constant.
- Predictability:** Belief that the organization has good visibility of the future, and that the models or planning tools used by leadership, strategy, finance, and risk management teams offer reasonable predictability.
- Quantitative and qualitative filters:** Heavy reliance on data insights, financial projections, probabilities with clearly defined centralized planning and processes which drives leadership decision-making. There is a strong degree of assumed predictability.
- Central case bias:** Reliance on best-case, worst-case, or most likely scenarios. Extent of exploring broader sets of alternative futures or major transformational scenarios as future possibilities, through structured approaches to consider next-order implications and unexpected impacts in complex systems.
- Continuation of the past:** Belief that current and past environments are good proxies to project the future in a relatively reliable way. Question of receptiveness to what may seem like crazy ideas, working with new ecosystems, and asking “*What If?*” questions.



Throughout *The Definitive Guide to Thriving on Disruption*, we offer around 30 checklists that address a diverse set of topics, including Emergent & Strategic Agility, Antifragility, Cybersecurity, Design Fiction, Eastern Philosophy, Achieving Relevance, the “Greenaissance” Opportunity, Thinking in Different Time Horizons, AI & the Future of Decision-Making, Technology, Innovation & Unintended Consequences, Business Models-as-a-System (BMaaS), and more.

To explore these checklists, other tools and resources from the four-Volume Guidebook, check out [www.thrivingondisruption.com](http://www.thrivingondisruption.com).