

VC-Backability Self-Assessment Checklist

Not every business is a venture business — and that’s okay. This checklist helps you assess whether your model and market truly align with VC logic, as described in Chapter 2 (“To Raise or Not to Raise”).

Question	Yes	No	If No, What Needs Work?
Does your business have the potential to grow 10x within 5–8 years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Can your market support venture-level scale (>\$100M+ opportunity)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Can you identify clear exit pathways for your business (acquisition, secondary market, IPO, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there comparable venture-backed outcomes in your sector, region or even other emerging markets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does your model compound value with capital (i.e., \$1 invested → measurable acceleration)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does your business have the potential to grow 10x within 5–8 years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you mapped out what your cap table will look like post-raise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you comfortable with monthly or quarterly reporting and external accountability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you personally comfortable trading control for acceleration?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

If you checked “No” on more than three questions, venture capital may not be the right fit for you. Focus on strengthening your growth logic, unit economics, or alternative capital paths before pursuing VC