



Bug Bounty Beginner Readiness Checklist

Mindset

1. I understand bug bounty is a long-term learning discipline.
2. I do not expect immediate payouts.
3. I measure progress through skill growth, not just rewards.
4. I understand duplicates are normal.

Program Selection

5. I choose a small number of programs and stay with them.
6. I read scope rules before testing.
7. I prefer functionality-rich applications for learning.

Toolkit & Workflow

8. I use Burp Suite consistently.
9. I capture requests and responses during testing.
10. I keep organised target notes.
11. I save screenshots and evidence.

Recon & Observation

12. I map endpoints before aggressive testing.
13. I compare user roles and account states.
14. I inspect hidden API behaviour.
15. I review JavaScript or archived resources.

Vulnerability Thinking

16. I focus on IDOR, auth, logic, and disclosure issues first.
17. I ask what trust assumption the app is making.
18. I tamper one variable at a time.
19. I inspect subtle response differences.

Reporting & Professionalism

20. I can write numbered reproduction steps clearly.
21. I explain impact calmly.
22. I communicate respectfully with triagers.
23. I stay strictly inside authorised scope.

24. I understand ethical discipline matters.

25. I view bug bounty as cyber career training, not just payout chasing.

SCORING RESULTS

Strong Hunting Discipline (20–25 Checked)

You are building a professional and sustainable bug bounty methodology.

Developing Practical Readiness (12–19 Checked)

You have useful exposure, but your workflow and consistency need strengthening.

Early Exploration Stage (0–11 Checked)

You are still in the curiosity phase and should focus more on structure, notes, and disciplined observation.