

Five levels. Where you actually sit.

Five layers, five levels each – Vihren Labs' own published maturity model, the same one inside the free Assessment. Score each layer honestly, one to five. Your readiness isn't the average of the five. **It's the lowest one.**

THE LADDER

same 5 levels, every layer

I
AD HOC
Exists only when someone decides to do it. No rule, no owner.

2
REPEATABLE
A pattern people mostly follow. Lives in habit, not on paper.

3
DEFINED
Written down. Has an owner. Works without asking you.

4
MANAGED
Defined, plus measured. You catch it when it drifts.

5
AI-READY
Consistent and observable enough to hand to a machine.

THE MATRIX

verbatim – the free Assessment, Part 1

	LEVEL 1 · AD HOC	LEVEL 3 · DEFINED (THE GATE)	LEVEL 5 · AI-READY
1 Governance	No owner, decided ad hoc per project.	Decision rights + use-case gate written down.	Portfolio managed to value and risk, fast, auditable.
2 Clean Data	Fragmented, no source of truth, duplicates.	Golden records + ownership for core domains.	One trusted source, agents reason on it safely.
3 Standardized Processes	Every team differs, exceptions are the norm.	SOPs + decision trees for key flows.	Consistent enough to automate end to end.
4 Controls	No access limits, no audit, no rollback.	Audit trail + rollback for AI actions defined.	Continuous assurance, mistakes caught fast.
5 Operating Model	One-off project, no owner after launch.	RACI, funding, and roadmap defined.	A standing capability that compounds.

Wording is verbatim from the free Assessment's 5x5 matrix (Part 1). **Levels 2 and 4** sit between these three – score all five in the download.

SCORE YOURSELF HONESTLY

3 rules, once a quarter

I
Score reality
Monday morning, not the strategy deck.
– The deck describes the intended operation. The machine meets the real one.

2
Gate, don't average
The lowest layer is your real readiness.
– Four layers at managed and one at ad hoc is not mostly ready. Score five numbers.

3
Respect level three
Below defined, don't automate it yet.
– You'd be automating a habit, not a process, and habits don't survive machine speed.

Cadence: once a quarter, not once. It takes about **fifteen minutes** once you know the ladder – the value is watching which layer moved.

OPERATOR INSIGHT · EPISODE 2

"Your AI readiness isn't the average of your five layers. It's the lowest one."

"Your AI maturity will never exceed your operational maturity."

Free **Score your own operation** – the Assessment has the complete matrix, all five layers at all five levels, in this exact wording. [vihrenlabs.gumroad.com/I/rmkje](https://vihrenlabs.com/gumroad.com/I/rmkje)