

How to plan 10 *weeks*

W1	W2	W3	W4	W5
Architecture	Virtualization	Switching	Routing	IP Services
W6	W7	W8	W9	W10
Assurance	Security	Automation + AI	Troubleshooting	Final Review

of CCNP ENCOR study
(in 7 steps)

A 10-WEEK STUDY WORKSHEET | 2026

A suggested roadmap you can adapt to your starting level.

Set Your Study Frequency

Pick a frequency you can stick to.

Before you set your exam date, decide when you'll study each week.
Set aside time for learning, hands-on labs, and review.

MY TARGET EXAM DATE _____ HOURS / WEEK _____

▲ MY WEEKLY STUDY SCHEDULE

MONDAY	
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	
FRIDAY	
SATURDAY	
SUNDAY	

Example: 90 min of theory Mon/Wed, 2 hours of labs Tue/Thu, review on Sat.

Break Down the Cisco Blueprint

Start with the official exam weights.

Cisco's ENCOR 350-401 v1.2 blueprint has six domains.

Mark your confidence, then write the topic you need to work on.

▲ MY SIX EXAM DOMAINS

15% ARCHITECTURE	Enterprise design, SD-WAN, SD-Access, QoS CONFIDENCE ☐ Low ☐ Okay ☐ Strong MY BIGGEST GAP: _____
10% VIRTUALIZATION	VMs, VRF, GRE/IPsec, LISP, VXLAN CONFIDENCE ☐ Low ☐ Okay ☐ Strong MY BIGGEST GAP: _____
30% INFRASTRUCTURE	Switching, OSPF, BGP, NAT, FHRP CONFIDENCE ☐ Low ☐ Okay ☐ Strong MY BIGGEST GAP: _____
10% NETWORK ASSURANCE	Syslog, NetFlow, SPAN, IP SLA, RESTCONF CONFIDENCE ☐ Low ☐ Okay ☐ Strong MY BIGGEST GAP: _____
20% SECURITY	AAA, ACLs, CoPP, threat defense CONFIDENCE ☐ Low ☐ Okay ☐ Strong MY BIGGEST GAP: _____
15% AUTOMATION & AI	Python, JSON, YANG, APIs, EEM CONFIDENCE ☐ Low ☐ Okay ☐ Strong MY BIGGEST GAP: _____

MY TOP 2 STUDY PRIORITIES

1. _____ 2. _____

Use these gaps to personalize your study hours, not the Cisco exam weights.

Choose Your Learning Resources

Pick the resources that work for you.

Start with one reliable option in each category.

Write down your choices. Add more only when you need them.

▲ MY STUDY TOOLKIT

01 VIDEO LESSONS

My main video course: _____

Extra videos for weak topics: _____

Choose up-to-date lessons that match the ENCOR v1.2 topics.

02 OFFICIAL DOCS

☐ Cisco ENCOR v1.2 Exam Blueprint

Additional documentation: _____

Use the official blueprint to verify what you need to study.

03 HANDS-ON LABS

My lab platform:

☐ EVE-NG ☐ Cisco CML ☐ Other: _____

My lab files / workbooks: _____

Choose a setup where you can configure and verify devices.

04 PRACTICE EXAMS

My practice exam source: _____

How I will review missed answers: _____

05 STUDY NOTES

My note-taking tool: _____

Where I track mistakes and CLI commands: _____

A simple toolkit is easier to use consistently.

Build Your 10-Week Study Calendar

Turn the blueprint into a weekly plan.

Use this suggested sequence as a starting point.

Adjust the order to match your weak areas and available time.

▲ MY 10-WEEK STUDY PLAN

WEEK	BLUEPRINT TOPICS	MY DATES
01	ARCHITECTURE Enterprise design, SD-WAN, SD-Access, QoS	☐ Study ☐ Lab ☐ Review
02	VIRTUALIZATION Virtual machines, VRF, GRE/IPsec, LISP, VXLAN	☐ Study ☐ Lab ☐ Review
03	SWITCHING 802.1Q trunks, EtherChannel, RSTP, MST	☐ Study ☐ Lab ☐ Review
04	ROUTING EIGRP/OSPF concepts, OSPFv2/v3, eBGP, PBR	☐ Study ☐ Lab ☐ Review
05	IP SERVICES NTP/PTP, NAT/PAT, HSRP/VRRP, multicast	☐ Study ☐ Lab ☐ Review
06	NETWORK ASSURANCE Syslog/SNMP, NetFlow, SPAN, IP SLA, NETCONF/RESTCONF	☐ Study ☐ Lab ☐ Review
07	SECURITY Device access, AAA, ACLs, CoPP, design	☐ Study ☐ Lab ☐ Review
08	AUTOMATION & AI Python, JSON, YANG, REST APIs, EEM	☐ Study ☐ Lab ☐ Review
09	TROUBLESHOOTING Revisit weak topics and re-do failed labs	☐ Study ☐ Lab ☐ Review
10	FINAL REVIEW Mixed practice, mistakes, exam readiness	☐ Study ☐ Lab ☐ Review

▲ BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- ☐ Add your calendar dates and reserve regular lab sessions.
- ☐ Plan extra time for the two weak areas you marked in Step 2.

Plan Your Hands-On Practice

Practice skills, not a fixed number of labs.

Use your study plan to choose what you need to practice.
Repeat difficult topics until you can verify the results on your own.

▲ MY LAB PRACTICE ROUTINE

☐ Choose one skill or network problem to practice.

☐ Build or import a topology in your lab environment.

☐ Configure the devices without looking at the solution.

☐ Verify the results and troubleshoot any failures.

☐ Record what went wrong, then repeat if needed.

▲ MY 10-WEEK HANDS-ON PLAN

Choose the skills or problems to practice each week. Leave the rest open.

WEEK	WHAT I'LL PRACTICE	DONE	REPEAT
01		☐	☐
02		☐	☐
03		☐	☐
04		☐	☐
05		☐	☐
06		☐	☐
07		☐	☐
08		☐	☐
09		☐	☐
10		☐	☐

Examples: OSPF neighbors, VLAN trunking, BGP route verification.

Track Your Weak Areas

Your mistakes show you what to study next.

Write down the exact problem, not just the topic name.
Review it, practice it, then test yourself again without notes.

▲ MY REVIEW ROUTINE

- ☐ Identify the exact concept, command, or step you missed.
- ☐ Find the matching Cisco blueprint objective.
- ☐ Review the explanation and practice the problem again.
- ☐ Mark it done only when you can explain and verify the result.

▲ MY WEAK-AREA LOG

Capture the gap and decide what you will do next. Add your own topics.

TOPIC / SKILL	WHAT WENT WRONG	MY NEXT ACTION	RETEST
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐

Example: OSPF timers / Missed a neighbor mismatch / Rebuild and verify.

Final Review & Exam Readiness

Ten weeks is a plan, not a deadline to be ready.

Use evidence from your practice to choose your exam date.
If something still feels uncertain, make time to review it.

▲ MY FINAL READINESS CHECKLIST

☐ Reviewed the official Cisco ENCOR v1.2 blueprint, objective by objective.

☐ Can explain the concepts without relying on memorized answers.

☐ Can configure and verify hands-on objectives independently.

☐ Retested the weak areas I recorded earlier in this planner.

☐ Completed timed practice questions and reviewed every mistake.

☐ Can troubleshoot failures and explain why the fix works.

▲ MY FINAL REVIEW SESSIONS

Schedule the remaining reviews based on your weak areas.

DATE	WHAT I NEED TO REVIEW	DONE
		☐
		☐
		☐
		☐
		☐

▲ MY EXAM DECISION

My target exam date:

Next readiness check:

☐ Ready to schedule

☐ Need more review first

Do not book because the calendar says Week 10. Book when the evidence supports it.

The 7-Step ENCOR Study System

1. **Study Frequency** → Set a weekly routine you can maintain
2. **Cisco Blueprint** → Find your gaps across the six exam domains
3. **Learning Resources** → Choose videos, documents, and labs
4. **Study Calendar** → Turn the blueprint into a 10-week plan
5. **Hands-On Practice** → Configure, verify, and troubleshoot
6. **Weak Areas** → Record mistakes and retest without notes
7. **Exam Readiness** → Review your results before booking

Keep the plan flexible. Mastery matters more than the calendar.

**Your plan is ready.
Now put it into practice.**

More resources for network engineers:

dynamips.io