

CCNA 200-301 Study Guide

A current study plan built around Cisco's 2026 v2.0 topic structure, not old passing-score folklore.

Use Cisco's live exam page before booking. Prices, topics, and policies can change. Do not plan around unofficial passing-score claims.

CURRENT EXAM REALITY

ITEM	USE THIS GUIDANCE
Exam	200-301 CCNA. Cisco's 2026 v2.0 topic PDF describes a 120-minute exam.
Price	Cisco's public exam page lists \$300 USD, plus tax where applicable. Verify before booking.
Passing score	Do not rely on a public fixed score. Cisco does not need your study plan to include a magic number.
Version	Study against the topic version active for your booking date.

Study Order

1. Subnetting and addressing.
2. Switching and VLANs.
3. Routing table reading.
4. OSPF and static routing.
5. Services and security.
6. AI, operations, syslog, Ansible, and management models.

Readiness Test

You are ready when you can explain why a packet fails, read show command output, and fix small labs without watching the answer first. Practice exams help, but they are evidence, not permission.

CCNA V2.0 DOMAIN MAP

DOMAIN	WEIGHT	WHAT TO PRACTICE
Network Infrastructure and Connectivity	25%	Copper and fiber issues, IPv4, IPv6, DHCP, wireless principles, client connectivity, hypervisors, VMs, containers.
Switching and Network Access	25%	Trunks, routed ports, LACP/EtherChannel, SVIs, edge ports, PoE, CDP/LLDP, Rapid PVST+ protections.
IP Routing	20%	Routing table interpretation, IPv4 and IPv6 static routes, OSPFv2, OSPFv3, HSRP, VRRP.
Network Services and Security	20%	AAA client config, SCP/SFTP, NAT/PAT, DNS records, IPsec concepts, ACLs, DHCP snooping, DAI, RA guard, port security.
AI, Network Operations, Management	10%	Agentic AI role, useful prompts, management approaches, SNMP, Ansible, syslog severity and facilities.

Weekly Plan

- Weeks 1-2: subnetting, IPv4, IPv6, binary shortcuts, client troubleshooting.
- Weeks 3-5: VLANs, trunks, LACP, STP, port security, CDP/LLDP.
- Weeks 6-8: routing tables, static routes, OSPFv2, OSPFv3, FHRP.
- Weeks 9-11: services, ACLs, NAT, DNS records, AAA, secure copy.
- Weeks 12-14: wireless, operations, syslog, SNMP, Ansible, AI-assisted troubleshooting.
- Weeks 15-16: mixed labs and practice exams.

Lab Minimums

- Build a VLAN trunk and break it intentionally.
- Fix a DHCP relay issue.
- Read an OSPF neighbor failure.
- Write and test a named ACL.
- Interpret a syslog message and severity.
- Use Ansible or a simple API example enough to explain the model.

BOOKING RULE

Book when your weak areas are known and shrinking. A useful target is three clean mixed-review sessions where wrong answers are mostly reading errors or edge cases, not missing fundamentals. If subnetting is still slow, wait.

Sources checked: Cisco CCNA exam page, Cisco exam pricing page, Cisco 200-301 CCNA v2.0 exam topics PDF.