CCIE RS Version 5 study approach:

1. Identify the scope / estimate your know how

Use a training partner to identify all necessary topics for CCIE RS version 5 such as INE, IPExpert etc.. In my example I have used INE's detailed expanded study blue print.

Copy it into an Excel spreadsheet and start going trough it, this will take a while to go through but its worth it. Be very honest with yourself, if you don't know the command by hart or have an idea, you do NOT know it and all the sub-commands associated with it...

http://blog.ine.com/2009/05/12/ccie-rs-4x-expanded-study-blueprint/

	15.3MT topic	unknown	read about it	configured 1-2	intermediate	confident
1. LAN Switching						
1.1. VLANs & Trunking						
1.1.1. Standard VLANs						
1.1.2. Extended VLANs						
1.1.3. VLAN Database						
1.1.4. Access Ports						
1.1.5. 802.1q Trunk Ports						
1.1.6. 802.1q Native VLAN						
1.1.7. Dynamic Trunking Protocol (DTP)						
1.1.8. Trunking Allowed List						
VTP 1						
VTP 2						
VTP 3						
1.2.2. VTP Authentication						

2. Estimate your efforts

	Hours, still to do:	Calculated hours in total
Reading CCIE books	76	581
INE Vol 1 Tasks	0	321
INE Vol 2 Tasks	60	60
INE Vol 3 Tasks	40	40
INE Vol 4 Tasks	40	40
INE 3x MOCK LABs	24	24
Nabriks Bootcamp	60	60

	Hours, still to do:	Calculated hours in total
Total hours	240	1125

calculated at 1.7 Labs per hour

Work day	8	hours
Day	24	hours
Working week	40	hours
Week	168	hours
Work-month	160	hours
Month	672	hours

Study time:
3 days during the week 12 hours
1 day weekend   8 hours
----
                20 hours / week

4x 20 = **80 hours per month**
12x 80 = **960 hours per year**

3. Start learning the involved technology (CCIE book list)

Book Title	Pages	already read
CCIE Routing and Switching - Official Certification Guide	1080	1080
Cisco LAN Switching	960	960
Frame Relay Solutions Guide	412	412
CCIE Routing TCP/IP Vol I	936	936
CCIE Routing TCP/IP Vol II	976	976
Cisco OSPF Command and Configuration Handbook	528	-
Cisco BGP-4 Command and Configuration Handbook	400	-
Internet Routing Architectures	528	528
Troubleshooting IP Routing Protocols	912	912
MPLS Fundamentals	672	672
MPLS and VPN Architectures Vol II	504	504
Cisco QoS	768	768
End-to-End QoS Network Design: Quality of Service in LANs, WANs, and VPNs	760	160
CCIE Practical Studies Vol I	1366	-
CCIE Practical Studies Vol II	1032	-
Developing IP Multicast Networks, Vol I	592	592
Deploying IPv6 Networks	672	672
Network Security Technologies and Solutions	912	912
CCIE Version 5 Certification guide Vol 1 and Vol 2	not available	
Pages in total	11612	10084

Calculated based on an average of 20 pages per hour.
(depends on your speed)

Read through the books, use a highlighter/marker and take personal notes of the books.
Initially the book may take you around 40 hours to go through, but later you can refresh the entire book in 4 hours.
I had to have physical books as I get tired too fast reading on a screen, plus sitting in the sun staring in a screen is not much fun..

Required effort rated at reading **20 pages per hour**: **580 hours**
All books, **6 hours** of reading each **day**:   **97 days**
Reading all, 6 hours / day in month: **3.2 month**

If you are really, really sure you know all technologies, skip the books and start going through the entire IOS configuration guides.

4. Repeat going through your notes

Create you own set of notes / study repetition method.
Or use my set of APP FREE ccie rs version 5 learning study flash cards to repeat what you learned so far and keep the information fresh.

http://colin.cant.ch/projects/Visio-CCIE_Lernkarten_v11.pdf

5. start learning using the Cisco docCD

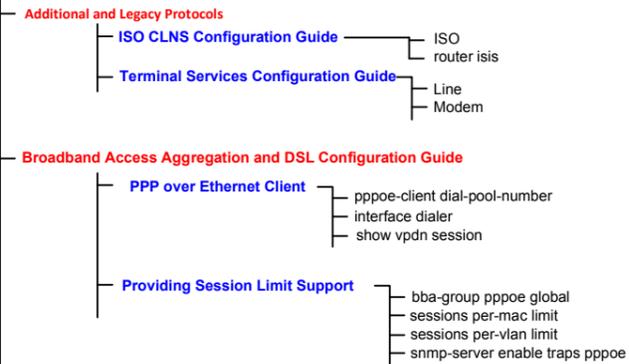http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/support/ios-nx-os-software/ios-software-release-15-3-3-m/model.html

I recommend going through the entire DocCD of version 15.3MT (configuration guides, not command reference) or what ever your future version for the CCIE is.
Browse through it and take notes where things are, can be commands, can be technologies, basically hints for yourself.
Then instead of using Google to find the right page on the docCD search within your own created docCD overview and then directly jump into the section you are interested in. This will speed up your lookup time for commands/technologies initially, plus it makes you aware where to find things over time without Google.
The more lab hours you spend the more you will remember this tip written here..
Plus during the lab if you know the feature name/technology but forgot the details, you find the right page within 30 seconds. Giving you another 5 minutes to answer that question.

This document just serves the purpose to CTRL-F:

http://colin.cant.ch/projects/IOS-15.3T-docCD-overview-v3.xls

6. Lab, lab, lab, and more lab….

Use a training partners workbook, there are plenty out there find one, stick to it, and don't jump from one vendor to another during your studies.

7. Bootcamps

I have visited the 5 day bootcamp performed by Narbik, the most increadible Cisco instructor I have ever met.

I had re-visited his 10 day bootcamp for a minor upgrade fee, his re-takes of the same bootcamp / version are for free and he encourages people to do so.

I highly recommend re-taking his class, the first time you go, you will have a serious buffer overflow in terms of content and quality of information received.

The second time you attend his class, you will be able to sip up details you could not process / digest the first time.

I have attended many Cisco courses in my past, but this is unlike anything you have ever seen before!
His memory is sensational and he knows every command / formula / ethertype etc... by hart and never needs to look up a thing in a PDF or similar.
In addition, I find his way of teaching and personality very entertaining in terms of how he delivers his class etc. Be prepared for long hours, frustrating GOOD labs which make you remember what you did wrong or what alternatives you have in each situation. It will open your eyes in terms of how protocols really work...

Narbiks training: http://micronicstraining.com/

8. create a process for each technology etc, follow it each time you configure that technology

Once you have gained the "entire" picture in terms of technologies, go through the the initial Scope list from Step 1 and make sure you have for each item / technology a process in place which you follow each time you configure it.
Or best, create you own set of cards!
Follow your process EVERY TIME from the beginning to the end and you will have a consistent failure resolution time!
You do NOT want to place a hip-shot assumption and waist time on upper layer stuff, when the problem after 30 minutes turns out to be an unnoticed speed mis-match or a "mac-address static drop" or similar. Keep following your created processes, and build up speed and accuracy.
You will know when it is time to go!

On your lab date X

Good luck, I wish!

and may the force be with you!