

TABLE 24.4**Optimal Time Needed to Complete Test Items**

TYPE OF ITEM	APPROXIMATE TIME PER TASK (ITEM)
True–false items	20–30 seconds
Multiple choice (factual)	40–60 seconds
One-word completion	40–60 seconds
Multiple choice (complex)	70–90 seconds
Matching (five premises/six responses)	2–4 minutes
Short answer	2–4 minutes
Multiple choice (with calculations)	2–5 minutes
Word problems (simple arithmetic)	5–10 minutes
Restricted-response essays	15–20 minutes
Extended-response essays	35–50 minutes

SOURCE: Brookhart & Nitko, 2014.