

## Choosing Between Objective and Subjective Test Items

Objective items: require students to select the correct response from several alternatives or supply a word or short phrase to answer a question. Include multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and completion items.

Subjective items: require students to write and present an original answer. Include short-answer essay, extended-response essay, problem solving, and performance tasks.

### Quiz

Test your knowledge of these two item types by answering the following questions. Evaluate whether the following nine statements about objective and subjective exams are true, false, or undetermined.

	Circle the correct answer		
	True	False	Undetermined
1. Essay exams are easier to construct than are objective exams.	T	F	?
2. Essay exams require more thorough student preparation and study time than objective exams.	T	F	?
3. Essay exams require writing skills where objective exams do not.	T	F	?
4. Essay exams teach a person how to write.	T	F	?
5. Essay exams are more subjective in nature than are objective exams.	T	F	?
6. Objective exams encourage guessing more so than essay exams.	T	F	?
7. Essay exams limit the extent of content covered.	T	F	?
8. Essay and objective exams can be used to measure the same content or ability.	T	F	?
9. Essay and objective exams are both good ways to evaluate a student's level of knowledge.	T	F	?