

## *6-4 Consider the time investment*

Just about every GMAT problem can be solved by a variety of methods. To grossly oversimplify, I group them into three categories. First is “the plodder,” which takes a long time and involves lots of steps and calculations. Better is “the efficient,” usually a method you’ve practiced that allows you to get to the answer in 90 to 120 seconds. Best, but elusive, is “the genius,” a flash of inspiration that cuts through the details and gives you the answer in no time.

Most of us aren’t going to come up with the “genius” approach very often. It’s a tough thing to practice. If you sufficiently prepare, you have the “efficient” approach in your arsenal for almost every question. The danger is if you figure out the “plodder” approach first and jump right in. I’m in favor of taking a step or two right away, but be careful you don’t start down a long path that requires four or five minutes to reach its conclusion.