

The squamous part of the **occipital bone** is the expanded plate of bone located postero-superior to the **foramen magnum**. The plate is convex externally, concave internally and articulates with each parietal bone at the lambdoid sutures supero-laterally and the temporal bone at the occipitomastoid sutures infero-laterally.

A landmark on the **occipital bone** is the lambda at the junction of the sagittal and lambdoid sutures. This is the site of the posterior fontanelle in the newborn that closes at the age of three months.

Internally, the surface is divided into two upper triangular and two lower quadrilateral areas by the internal occipital protuberance, the grooves for the superior sagittal and transverse sinuses, and the midline internal occipital crest. Externally and posteriorly, midway between the summit and the foramen magnum, is the external occipital protuberance. The highest and superior nuchal lines pass laterally on each side of the external occipital protuberance. Inferior to this and in the midline lies the external occipital crest; the inferior nuchal lines pass laterally from the crest's midpoint.

Between the superior and inferior nuchal lines, semispinalis capitis attaches medially and obliquus capitis attaches superior laterally. The medial part of **splenius capitis** attaches just below the lateral part of the superior nuchal line deep to sternocleidomastoid.