- Extend inferiorly at junction of the body and the greater wings
  - Groove for the cartilaginous part of pharyngotympanic (auditory) tube lies medial to spine of the sphenoid, inferior to where the great wing of sphenoid meets the petrous (rock-like) section of the temporal bone
- Depressions in the squamous part of the temporal bone (mandibular fossae) accommodate the mandibular condyles when the mouth is closed
- Posterior part of the cranial base is formed from the occipital bone (articulates with sphenoid anteriorly)
- The parts of the occipital bone are arranged around the foramen magnum
  - Lateral aspect of occipital bone are the occipital condyles – cranium articulates with the vertebral column
- Structures passing through the foramen magnum
  - Spinal cord (becomes continuous with medulla oblongata)
  - Vertebral arteries
  - Anterior and posterior spinal arteries
  - Spinal accessory nerve (CN XI)
- Jugular foramen is located between the occipital bone and petrous part of the temporal bone – internal jugular vein and CN IX-XI pass
- Carotid canal anterior to the jugular foramen, in temporal bone – internal carotid artery passes
- Stylo mastoid foramen lies posterior to styloid process – facial nerve (CN VII) and stylomastoid artery go via here