

Syllabus	OB_BK_01, OB_BK_10
Topic	Caesarean section under general anaesthesia

a)

List 2 cardiac physiological changes of pregnancy and explain why they might be relevant to induction of general anaesthesia (GA)? (4 marks)

Change 1:

Relevance:

Change 2:

Relevance:

b)

List 2 respiratory physiological changes of pregnancy and explain why they are relevant to induction of anaesthesia (4 marks)

Change 1:

Relevance:

Change 2:

Relevance:

c)

Name 2 changes to the maternal neurological system relevant to the conduct of general anaesthesia? (2 marks)

1.

2.

d)

List 8 risk factors for awareness relevant to this patient group. (8 marks)

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

e)

When is awareness most likely to occur during a GA caesarean section and why? (2 marks)

When:

Why:

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Q	Answer	Mark	Guidance
a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aortocaval compression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requiring patient position to be tilted • Increased stroke volume and heart rate leading to increased cardiac output <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lower peak concentration of drug, faster onset but also faster redistribution of induction agent 	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	
b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airway engorgement leading to potential difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare for difficulty and have smaller ETT • Increased MV and reduced FRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faster preoxygenation but also faster desaturation during apnoea 	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	
c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced MAC • Increased sensitivity to opioids 	<p>1</p> <p>1</p>	
d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female sex • Obesity • Use of thiopentone • Use of neuromuscular blockade • Emergency surgery • Junior anaesthetist • RSI • Potentially difficult airway 	<p>8</p>	
e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At or shortly after induction • Potential gap between IV and inhalational induction administration 	<p>2</p>	

References:

1) Pandit JJ, Cook T. National Audit Project – 5. Accidental awareness during General Anaesthesia in the United Kingdom and Ireland (2014).

<https://www.nationalauditprojects.org.uk/NAP5report>