The conjunctiva is the vascular mucous membrane that covers the anterior globe and the inner surface of the eyelids. This membrane plays a role in the immunological defense system of the external eye.

The bulbar conjunctiva covers the globe itself, while the palpebral conjunctiva is attached to the tarsal plates of the eyelids.

The episclera is the outermost layer of the sclera and has an extensive blood supply from the anterior ciliary arteries. Inflammation makes these vessels much more visible (when viewed with a slit lamp), as they lie just posterior to the bulbar conjunctiva.

The sclera is the firm, protective, white housing for the inner contents of the globe. It is composed of dense collagen fibers.