

**1. Answer:**

- *Blocked* → *Running*: Normally, when a process is unblocked, it is put into the Ready state. The dispatcher will choose a process from the Ready state to run. However, if the CPU happens to be idle when a process is unblocked, the process could go directly from blocked to running.
- *Ready* → *Blocked*: A ready process is currently queueing for its CPU time, so it cannot do I/O or anything else that might block it. Typically, a ready process cannot be blocked until it has run.

**2. Answer:**

- a) There are two independent concepts: whether a process is waiting on an event (blocked or not), and whether a process has been swapped out of main memory (suspended or not). To accommodate this  $2 \times 2$  combination, we need two Ready states and two Blocked states.
- b)
  - i) Yes, this can make room for another process that is not blocked, in particular, when the currently running process or a ready process that the OS would like to dispatch requires more main memory to maintain adequate performance.
  - ii) Yes, if this is the only way to free up a sufficiently large block of main memory or the OS may choose to suspend a lower-priority ready process rather than a higher-priority blocked process if it believes that the blocked process will be ready soon.
  - iii) Yes, if the process in the Ready/Suspend state has higher priority than any of the ready processes. Otherwise, there is swapping cost.

**3. Answer:**

- a)
  - An interrupt is due to some sort of event that is external to and independent of the currently running process, such as the completion of an I/O operation.
  - A trap relates to an error or exception condition generated within the currently running process, such as an illegal file access attempt.
- b)
  - A mode switch may occur without changing the state of the process that is currently in the Running state.
  - A process switch involves taking the currently executing process out of the Running state in favor of another process. The process switch involves saving more state information.

**Self-test**

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. D
5. D
6. C & D