

## Role-play on the passage of a mock bill

### Homework Bill

#### First Reading

| Role  | Script   |
|---|--|
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> | : Bill: First Reading.                                       |
| <b>CLERK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b>     | : <i>(Stands up)</i><br>Homework Bill.<br><i>(Sits down)</i> |

#### Second Reading

| Role  | Script   |
|---|--|
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> | : Second Reading.<br>Secretary for Education.  |
| <b>SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION</b>              | : <i>(Stands up)</i><br>President, I move the Second Reading of the Homework Bill. The Bill seeks to ban homework for lower primary students. Studies have shown that young children are easily affected by their surroundings when they do homework at home and their learning is less effective. Therefore, by requiring schools to arrange time within lessons for students to finish their assignments under the guidance of teachers, lower primary students not only can focus more on their studies, but also have more time after school to take part in other activities and have a happy childhood. Many places such as France and Seoul have proposed to ban homework for junior primary students. It is worthwhile to consider following such practice ... <i>(Student may come up with more points of his/her own)</i> Therefore, I urge Members to support the Bill.<br><i>(Sits down)</i> |

| <b>Role</b>   | <b>Script</b>   |
|---|---|
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b>                                       | <p>: I now propose the question to you: That the Homework Bill be read the second time.</p> <p><i>(Second Reading debate to continue without adjournment)</i><sup>1</sup></p> <p>Does any Member wish to speak?</p> <p><i>(The student acting as LegCo Member 1 – Medical and Health Services Functional Constituency raises his/her hand)</i></p> <p><u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member 1 – Medical and Health Services Functional Constituency)</p>   |
| <b>HON (LegCo Member 1 – Medical and Health Services Functional Constituency)</b> | <p>: <i>(Stands up)</i></p> <p>Thank you, President. In Hong Kong, many students have plenty of after-school activities, yet they need to finish a lot of homework at night and do not have enough time to rest. It is not good for their brain development and physical and mental health. If the Bill is passed, it will prevent young children from sitting for a long time to do homework, having too little sleep time or too much learning pressure, and will help them grow up healthily ... <i>(Student may express more views freely)</i> Hence, I support the Homework Bill.</p> <p><i>(Sits down)</i></p> <p><i>(The student acting as LegCo Member 2 – Education Functional Constituency raises his/her hand)</i></p> |
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b>                                       | <p>: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member 2 – Education Functional Constituency)</p>  |

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<sup>1</sup> The proceedings have been simplified for the purposes of the role-play. For real Council meetings, after the motion for the Second Reading of a bill has been moved, the debate on the bill is adjourned, with the bill being referred to the House Committee for scrutiny.

| <b>Role</b>  | <b>Script</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>HON (LegCo Member 2 – Education Functional Constituency)</b>      | <p><i>(Stands up)</i></p> <p>Thank you, President. Homework can help students strengthen what they have learned after lessons. I do not think it is necessary to completely ban homework. Instead, it should be up to the schools to make a decision and design interesting and suitable homework based on students’ abilities, interests and needs, etc. Such homework can inspire students to learn, and help teachers track students’ learning progress through marking homework ... <i>(Student may express more views freely)</i></p> <p>Therefore, I oppose the Homework Bill.</p> <p><i>(Sits down)</i></p> <p><i>(The student acting as LegCo Member 3 – Social Welfare Functional Constituency raises his/her hand)</i></p>   |
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b>                          | <p>: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member 3 – Social Welfare Functional Constituency)</p>  |
| <b>HON (LegCo Member 3 – Social Welfare Functional Constituency)</b> | <p><i>(Stands up)</i></p> <p>Thank you, President. If lower primary students are not required to do homework, they will have more time to get along and build a closer relationship with their parents. In addition, young students can learn and develop other skills by taking part in more interest classes or after-school activities which are good for health. They can also make new friends through joining group activities. In short, children can spend more time staying at home and taking part in activities to learn social skills ... <i>(Student may express more views freely)</i></p> <p>Therefore, I support the Homework Bill.</p> <p><i>(Sits down)</i></p> <p><i>(The student acting as LegCo Member 4 – Geographical Constituency raises his/her hand)</i></p> |

| <b>Role</b>                                 | <b>Script</b>   |
|---|---|
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> | : <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member 4 – Geographical Constituency) |

**HON (LegCo Member 4 – Geographical Constituency)** : *(Stands up)*  
Thank you, President. Many parents are very involved in their children’s studies. They may not accept banning homework once and for all because they believe that doing more homework can help improve academic performance. Besides, if homework for lower primary students is to be banned, the Government should provide more leisure facilities in the community beforehand so that students can have a better environment to make good use of their free time ... *(Student may express more views freely)* Therefore, I oppose the Homework Bill.  
*(Sits down)*

*(The student acting as LegCo Member 5 – Election Committee raises his/her hand)*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> | : <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member 5 – Election Committee) |
|---|--|

**HON (LegCo Member 5 – Election Committee)** : *(Stands up)*  
Thank you, President. Many parents need to work long hours and may not be able to guide their children through their homework. Therefore, giving students homework to extend their learning at home is unfair to those students who receive less support after school. If young students can finish assignments at school, parents will no longer need to arrange their children to attend tutorial classes for doing homework. As a result, the burden of grassroots families can be very much reduced ... *(Student may express more views freely)* Therefore, I support the Homework Bill.  
*(Sits down)*

| <b>Role</b>                                 | <b>Script</b>   |
|---|---|
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> | <p>: Does any other Member wish to speak?</p> <p><i>(The rest of the students acting as LegCo Members may raise their hands to indicate their wish to speak. Students should wait until the President calls their names to stand up and speak)</i></p> <p><u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member)<br/> <i>(One by one, the President calls upon the students who have raised their hands to indicate their wish to speak to stand up and speak)</i></p> |
| <b>HON (LegCo Member)</b>                   | <p>: <i>(Stands up)</i><br/> (Student to express his/her views)<br/> <i>(Sits down)</i></p>   |
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> | <p>: <i>(All students who have raised their hands to indicate their wish to speak have finished delivering their speeches)</i></p> <p>Does any other Member wish to speak? (If no Member indicates a wish to speak)</p> <p>If not, I now call upon the Secretary for Education to reply. Then, the debate will come to a close. Secretary for Education.</p>  |
| <b>SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION</b>              | <p>: <i>(Stands up)</i><br/> President. I understand that some Members believe that homework can help students learn. However, banning homework for lower primary students can leave more time for young students to enjoy other lively and interesting learning experience, which will in turn help them grow up healthily. I urge all Members to support the Bill.<br/> <i>(Sits down)</i></p>  |
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> | <p>: I now put the question to you: That the Homework Bill be read the second time.</p> <p>Will those in favour please raise their hands?<br/> <i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i></p>  |

| Role  | Script   |
|---|--|
|   | <p>Those against please raise their hands.<br/> <i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i></p>  |
| <p>(If <u>over half</u> of the Members present<br/> vote <u>in favour</u> of the Bill)</p>  | <p>(If <u>half or less than half</u> of the Members<br/> present vote <u>in favour</u> of the Bill)</p>  |
| <p><b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> : I think the question is agreed by a majority of the Members present.<br/> I declare the motion passed.</p> | <p><b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> : I think the question is not agreed by a majority of the Members present.<br/> I declare the motion negatived.</p> |
| <p><b>CLERK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> : <i>(Stands up)</i><br/> Homework Bill.<br/> <i>(Sits down)</i></p>   | <p><i>(If the motion is negatived, no further proceedings shall be taken on the Bill)</i></p>  |

*(The proceedings of committee of the whole Council to be omitted)<sup>2</sup>*

### **Third Reading**

| Role   | Script  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b></p> | <p>: Council now resumes.<br/> Third Reading — Homework Bill.<br/> Secretary for Education.</p>                                       |
| <p><b>SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION</b></p>              | <p>: <i>(Stands up)</i><br/> President, I move that the Homework Bill be read the third time and do pass.<br/> <i>(Sits down)</i></p> |

<sup>2</sup> The proceedings have been simplified for the purposes of the role-play. For real Council meetings, when a motion for the Second Reading of a bill has been agreed to, the Council becomes committee of the whole Council. Members may propose amendments to the bill as well as discuss whether they support the proposed amendments and whether the clauses should stand part of the bill.

| Role  | Script   |
|---|--|
|   | <i>(Debate to be omitted)</i> <sup>3</sup>   |
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> | : I now put the question to you: That the Homework Bill be read the third time and do pass.<br><br>Will those in favour please raise their hands?<br><i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i><br><br>Those against please raise their hands.<br><i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i> |

| (If <u>over half</u> of the Members present vote <u>in favour</u> of the Bill)   | (If <u>half or less than half</u> of the Members present vote <u>in favour</u> of the Bill)   |
|--|---|
| <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> : I think the question is agreed by a majority of the Members present.<br>I declare the motion passed. | <b>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> : I think the question is not agreed by a majority of the Members present.<br>I declare the motion negatived. |
| <b>CLERK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</b> : <i>(Stands up)</i><br>Homework Bill.<br><i>(Sits down)</i>   |   |

- End -

<sup>3</sup> The proceedings have been simplified for the purposes of the role-play. For real Council meetings, Members may debate the motion for the Third Reading of a bill. Members may only make a short speech on whether the bill should be supported.