

Role-play on the passage of a mock bill

Nuclear Power Bill

First Reading

Role	Script
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: Bill: First Reading.
CLERK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <i>(Stands up)</i> Nuclear Power Bill. <i>(Sits down)</i>

Second Reading

Role	Script
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: Second Reading. Secretary for Environment and Ecology.
SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY	: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I move the Second Reading of the Nuclear Power Bill. The Bill seeks to provide for the increased use of nuclear power for electricity generation in Hong Kong. While oil reserves and other fossil fuels are limited and may be used up, electricity demand in Hong Kong has continued to grow. Therefore, using nuclear power can help to alleviate the problem of electricity shortage. Besides, the cost of nuclear power is lower than that of other means of power generation ... <i>(Student may come up with more points of his/her own)</i> I urge Members to support the Bill. <i>(Sits down)</i>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: I now propose the question to you: That the Nuclear Power Bill be read the second time.

Role**Script**

*(Second Reading debate to continue without adjournment)*¹

**PRESIDENT OF
THE
LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL**

: Does any Member wish to speak?

(The student acting as LegCo Member 1 – Geographical Constituency raises his/her hand)

Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member 1 – Geographical Constituency)

**HON (LegCo
Member 1 –
Geographical
Constituency)**

: *(Stands up)*

Thank you, President. Nuclear power generation is a source of radiation, and the reactors of nuclear power plants contain a large amount of nuclear materials, which are hazardous to health. If there is any accident leading to a meltdown of the reactor core, the radioactive materials will be released into the environment. The massive amount of radiation released will cause serious damage to local communities and ecology. The risks posed are unacceptable ... *(Student may express more views freely)* Therefore, I oppose the Nuclear Power Bill.
(Sits down)

(The student acting as LegCo Member 2 – Engineering Functional Constituency raises his/her hand)

**PRESIDENT OF
THE
LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL**

: Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member 2 – Engineering Functional Constituency)

**HON (LegCo
Member 2 –
Engineering
Functional
Constituency)**

: *(Stands up)*

Thank you, President. Nuclear power is one of the most environmentally friendly sources of energy for electricity production. Unlike fossil fuels, nuclear fuels do not produce carbon dioxide or sulphur dioxide. Increasing the use of nuclear power can reduce carbon emissions relating to electricity generation and thus there will be fewer greenhouse

¹ 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.

Role**Script**

gas emissions. Nuclear power could play an important role in helping combat climate change and bringing about environmental benefits ... *(Student may express more views freely)* Therefore, I support the Nuclear Power Bill.
(Sits down)

(The student acting as LegCo Member 3 – Agriculture and Fisheries Functional Constituency raises his/her hand)

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

: Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member 3 – Agriculture and Fisheries Functional Constituency)

HON (LegCo Member 3 – Agriculture and Fisheries Functional Constituency)

: *(Stands up)*

Thank you, President. The radioactive nuclear waste produced by nuclear power plants is highly toxic, and thus cannot be dumped arbitrarily in landfills. It must be buried underground after special treatments. Even so, the processed nuclear waste may still combust spontaneously without any warning. If any accident happens, the nuclear waste will extremely likely be discharged into soils, rivers, water sources and even the atmosphere. In that case, not only human beings, but all creatures in this world will fall victim and be subject to serious pollution ... *(Student may express more views freely)* For these reasons, I oppose the Nuclear Power Bill.
(Sits down)

(The student acting as LegCo Member 4 – Election Committee raises his/her hand)

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

: Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member 4 – Election Committee)

HON (LegCo Member 4 – Election Committee)

: *(Stands up)*

Thank you, President. Nuclear power plants do not occupy much space, allowing them to be constructed in developed

Role**Script**

areas. For this reason, the electricity generated by nuclear power plants need not be transferred over long distances, thereby reducing the cost. Most importantly, the operating cost of nuclear power plants is lower than that of power plants which run on coal or petroleum. Hence, many commercial companies or even domestic users will be able to enjoy a lower electricity tariff. Commercial users can in turn reduce their operating cost and enhance their profit margin ... *(Student may express more views freely)* In view of the above, I support the Nuclear Power Bill.

(Sits down)

(The student acting as LegCo Member 5 – Education Functional Constituency raises his/her hand)

**PRESIDENT OF
THE
LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL**

: Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member 5 – Education Functional Constituency)

**HON (LegCo
Member 5 –
Education
Functional
Constituency)**

: *(Stands up)*

Thank you, President. According to many studies conducted by various universities worldwide, nuclear power is not the only electricity option other than fossil fuel sources. Many other forms of energy can also be used for electricity generation, such as wind energy, water power, solar energy and geothermal energy. All these renewable energy resources will not cause any damage to the environment or produce any toxic waste. We should consider using these renewable energy resources instead of nuclear energy in order to facilitate sustainable development ... *(Student may express more views freely)* Therefore, I oppose the Nuclear Power Bill.

(Sits down)

**PRESIDENT OF
THE
LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL**

: Does any other Member wish to speak?

Role**Script**

(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)

Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member)

(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)

HON (LegCo Member)

: *(Stands up)*
(Student to express his/her views)
(Sits down)

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

: *(All students who have raised their hands to indicate their wish to speak have finished delivering their speeches)*

Does any other Member wish to speak? (If no Member indicates a wish to speak)

If not, I now call upon the Secretary for Environment and Ecology to reply. Then, the debate will come to a close. Secretary for Environment and Ecology.

SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

: *(Stands up)*
President. I understand Members' grave concern about the safety of nuclear power generation. However, nuclear power is a clean fuel for electricity generation without greenhouse gas emissions. Safety measures are also in place to ensure the safety operation of nuclear power stations. Therefore, I urge all Members to support the Bill.
(Sits down)

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

: I now put the question to you: That the Nuclear Power Bill be read the second time.

Will those in favour please raise their hands?
(The Clerk counts the votes)

Role	Script	
	Those against please raise their hands. <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)
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: I think the question is agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion passed.	PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL : I think the question is not agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion negatived.
CLERK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <i>(Stands up)</i> Nuclear Power Bill. <i>(Sits down)</i>	<i>(If the motion is negatived, no further proceedings shall be taken on the Bill)</i>

Consideration of bill by committee of the whole Council

Role	Script	
	<i>(The proceedings for dealing with clauses with no amendment are omitted)²</i>	
CHAIRMAN	: Council now becomes committee of the whole Council to consider the Nuclear Power Bill. I now propose the question to you: That the following clause stands part of the Bill.	
CLERK	: <i>(Stands up)</i> Clause 3. <i>(Sits down)</i>	

² 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 which discusses whether it supports the amendments proposed to the bill, and whether the clauses should stand part of it.

Role	Script
CHAIRMAN	: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member), you may move your amendment.
HON (LegCo Member)	: <i>(Stands up)</i> Chairman, I now move my amendment to clause 3 of the Bill, seeking to <u>*bring forward/postpone</u> the year of completion originally stipulated in the Bill to year _____. The rationale behind my proposed amendment is that ... <i>(Student may express more views freely)</i> I hope Members will support my proposed amendment. <i>(Sits down)</i>
CHAIRMAN	: Does any Member wish to speak? <i>(The rest of the students acting as LegCo Members may raise their hands to indicate their wish to speak, they may speak for or against the amendment)</i> <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member) <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>
HON (LegCo Member)	: <i>(Stands up)</i> (Student to express his/her views) <i>(Sits down)</i>
CHAIRMAN	: <i>(All students who have raised their hands to indicate their wish to speak have finished delivering their speeches)</i> Secretary for Environment and Ecology.
SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY	: <i>(Stands up)</i> (Student who acts as the Secretary for Environment and Ecology expresses his/her opinion, and responds to the views raised during the discussion of amendment to the Bill) <i>(Sits down)</i>

Role**Script**

CHAIRMAN : I now put the question to you: That the amendment moved by Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as LegCo Member) be passed.

Will those in favour please raise their hands?³
(*The Clerk counts the votes*)

Those against please raise their hands.
(*The Clerk counts the votes*)

(If over half of the Members present vote in favour of the amendment)

(If half or less than half of the Members present vote in favour of the amendment)

CHAIRMAN : I think the question is agreed by a majority of the Members present.
I declare the amendment passed.

CHAIRMAN : I think the question is not agreed by a majority of the Members present.
I declare the amendment negated.

CLERK : (*Stands up*)
Clause 3 as amended.
(*Sits down*)

CHAIRMAN : I now put the question to you: That clause 3 as amended stands part of the Bill.

CHAIRMAN : I now put the question to you: That clause 3 stands part of the Bill.

³ To simplify the proceedings of the role-play, the passage of bills or amendments shall require a majority vote of the Members present. The voting procedure for real Council meetings is as follows:

- (a) the passage of bills or amendments introduced by the Government requires a majority vote of the Members present;
- (b) the passage of bills or amendments introduced by individual Members requires a majority vote of each of the two groups of Members present, i.e. Members returned by the Election Committee, and those returned by functional constituencies and by geographical constituencies through direct elections.

Role	Script		
CHAIRMAN	: Will those in favour please raise their hands? <i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i> Those against please raise their hands. <i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i>	CHAIRMAN	: Will those in favour please raise their hands? <i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i> Those against please raise their hands. <i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i>
(If <u>over half</u> of the Members present vote <u>in favour</u> of the motion)		(If <u>half or less than half</u> of the Members present vote <u>in favour</u> of the motion)	
CHAIRMAN	: I think the question is agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion passed.	CHAIRMAN	: I think the question is not agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion negatived.

Reporting of bill from committee of the whole Council

Role	Script
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: All the proceedings on the Nuclear Power Bill have been concluded in committee of the whole Council. Council now resumes. Secretary for Environment and Ecology.
SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY	: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I now report to the Council: That the Nuclear Power Bill has been passed by committee of the whole Council <u>*with/without amendment (*subject to the passage of the proposed amendment)</u> . I move the motion that “This Council adopts the report”. <i>(Sits down)</i>

Role	Script
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	<p>: I now propose the question to you: That the motion moved by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology be passed.</p> <p>The motion shall be voted on without amendment or debate. I now put the question to you as stated.</p> <p>Will those in favour please raise their hands? <i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i></p> <p>Those against please raise their hands. <i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i></p>

(If <u>over half</u> of the Members present vote <u>in favour</u> of the motion)	(If <u>half or less than half</u> of the Members present vote <u>in favour</u> of the motion)
<p>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL : I think the question is agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion passed.</p>	<p>PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL : I think the question is not agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion negatived.</p> <p><i>(If the motion is negatived, no further proceedings shall be taken on the Bill)</i></p>

Third Reading

Role	Script
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: Third Reading — Nuclear Power Bill. Secretary for Environment and Ecology.
SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY	: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I move that the Nuclear Power Bill be read the third time and do pass. <i>(Sits down)</i>

Role**Script***(Debate to be omitted)⁴***PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

: I now put the question to you: That the Nuclear Power Bill be read the third time and do pass.

Will those in favour please raise their hands?
*(The Clerk counts the votes)*Those against please raise their hands.
(The Clerk counts the votes)

(If over half of the Members present
vote in favour of the Bill)

(If half or less than half of the Members
present vote in favour of the Bill)

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: I think the question is agreed by a majority of the Members present.
I declare the motion passed.**PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**: I think the question is not agreed by a majority of the Members present.
I declare the motion negatived.**CLERK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**: *(Stands up)*
Nuclear Power Bill.
(Sits down)

- End -

⁴ 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.