

Mock Motion Debate

Formulating a bicycle-friendly policy

“Green commuting” is the adoption of commuting modes that have the least environmental impact. It is to achieve the aims of reducing pollution, saving costs, enhancing energy efficiency and fostering health. Cycling is one of the ideal low-carbon commuting options. This Council urges the Government to formulate a bicycle-friendly policy, improve the bicycle-related facilities on urban roads, and earnestly implement measures to designate bicycle as a major mode of transport. Members of the public will then be able to commute by bicycle in a convenient and safe environment.

Mock Motion Debate

Formulating a bicycle-friendly policy

Role	Script
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: Members' motion: Formulating a bicycle-friendly policy. <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member A who moves the motion)
MEMBER A (GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY)	: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I move that the motion be passed, so as to urge the Government to formulate a bicycle-friendly policy, improve the bicycle-related facilities on urban roads, and earnestly implement measures to designate bicycle as a major mode of transport. Members of the public will then be able to commute by bicycle in a convenient and safe environment. Using bicycles for daily transportation can reduce carbon dioxide emissions and noise from vehicles, help improve the physique of the people and enhance environmental quality. Despite its promotion of "green commuting" in recent years, the Government has not introduced a comprehensive bicycle-friendly policy. I expect the Government to work expeditiously on urban planning, road design, legislative amendments, motorist education, etc. in order to create the ideal conditions for cycling to become a popular mode of commuting in Hong Kong ... <i>(Student may express more views freely)</i> Thank you, President. <i>(Sits down)</i>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: I now propose the question to you and that is: That the motion moved by <u>Member A</u> be passed. Does any Member wish to speak? <i>(The student acting as Legislative Council Member B (Sports, Performing Arts, Culture and Publication Functional Constituency) raises his/her hand)</i>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member B (Sports, Performing Arts, Culture and Publication Functional Constituency))

Role	Script
MEMBER B (SPORTS, PERFORMING ARTS, CULTURE AND PUBLICATION FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY)	<p>: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I support <u>Member A</u>'s motion. Hong Kong cyclists have won numerous prizes and have secured a place on the world stage of cycling. However, Hong Kong still does not have a popular cycling culture. With most cycle tracks in Hong Kong built in the New Territories and outlying islands, the public perceives cycling to be just a leisure activity. If the Government can designate bicycle as a major mode of transport and improve the provision of bicycle-related complementary measures on urban roads, cycling will definitely become part of people's lives and no longer be considered as just a form of leisure. This will help promote the cycling culture ... <i>(Student may express more views freely)</i> President, I so submit and support <u>Member A</u>'s motion. Thank you. <i>(Sits down)</i></p> <p><i>(The student acting as Legislative Council Member C (Election Committee) raises his/her hand)</i></p>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	<p>: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as the Legislative Council Member C (Election Committee))</p>
MEMBER C (ELECTION COMMITTEE)	<p>: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I oppose <u>Member A</u>'s motion. In the absence of comprehensive facilities, pressing ahead with the promotion of cycling as a transport mode will only bring more problems. Given the current shortage of bicycle parking spaces, if cycling becomes a major mode of transport and hence an increase in the number of cyclists, the problem of illegal bicycle parking may be worsened, which not only affects streetscape, but also causes road obstruction. Due to a lack of parking facilities, cyclists will have no choice but to travel with their bicycles on public transport for connection to major transport nodes, which may intensify the friction between them and other passengers over issues such as boarding and alighting, seats and space. The result may be counterproductive ... <i>(Student may express more views freely)</i> President, I so submit and oppose <u>Member A</u>'s motion. Thank you.</p>

Role**Script**

(Sits down)

(The student acting as Legislative Council Member D (Medical and Health Services Functional Constituency) raises his/her hand)

**PRESIDENT OF
THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL**

: Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member D (Medical and Health Services Functional Constituency))

**MEMBER D
(MEDICAL AND
HEALTH
SERVICES
FUNCTIONAL
CONSTITUENCY)**

: *(Stands up)*

Thank you, President. I support Member A's motion. People are tending to spend much time seated, and this is a factor contributing to health risks and various chronic diseases. According to the information provided by the Department of Health, the energy consumed by cycling is about four times higher than that consumed by travelling by motor vehicle or public transport. Therefore, promoting cycling as an alternative commuting mode can encourage the public to do more exercise, which can relieve stress, enhance physical fitness, reduce the risk of heart disease and promote weight loss. Incorporating exercise into daily routine will effectively bring health benefits ... *(Student may express more views freely)* President, I so submit and support Member A's motion. Thank you.

(Sits down)

(The student acting as Legislative Council Member E (Transport Functional Constituency) raises his/her hand)

**PRESIDENT OF
THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL**

: Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member E (Transport Functional Constituency))

**MEMBER E
(TRANSPORT
FUNCTIONAL
CONSTITUENCY)**

: *(Stands up)*

President, I oppose Member A's motion. As the speeds of pedestrians, bicycles and motor vehicles differ, it is neither safe nor proper for them to share roads. Moreover, the traffic in urban areas of Hong Kong is very heavy, with narrow and crowded roads. Bus and minibus routes are numerous and on-street loading and unloading activities of

Role**Script**

goods and passengers are frequent. Statistics show that fatal or serious traffic accidents involving bicycles mostly occur on carriageways, with over 200 such accidents occurring on average in each of the past five years. Therefore, to ensure road safety, we should not encourage the public to use bicycles as a mode of transport on busy roads ... *(Student may express more views freely)*
President, I so submit and oppose Member A's motion.
Thank you.
(Sits down)

**PRESIDENT OF
THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL**

: Does any other Member wish to speak?

(The rest of the students acting as Legislative Council Members may raise their hands to indicate their wish to speak. Students should wait until the President calls his/her name to stand up and speak)

Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council 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
(LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL
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)
Secretary for Transport and Logistics.

**SECRETARY FOR
TRANSPORT AND
LOGISTICS**

: *(Stands up)*
President, I am delighted that quite a number of Members have spoken enthusiastically and offered valuable views on the motion. The Government agrees that it is necessary to

Role**Script**

promote a cycling culture and formulate a bicycle-friendly policy, but we should take forward the work steadily and progressively having regard to realistic conditions. Hong Kong is small and densely populated with heavy traffic and substantial commercial and economic activities. We are facing an important challenge as to how to meet the daily needs of over seven million people who commute to work, to school and for leisure and entertainment, etc. and at the same time facilitate the logistic and economic activities of the freight industry. The Government will continue its endeavours to foster a bicycle-friendly environment in the light of the actual circumstances and the needs of different road users ... *(Student may come up with more points of his/her own)* Thank you, President.
(Sits down)

**PRESIDENT OF
THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL**

: Member A, you may now reply. This debate will come to a close after Member A has replied. Member A.

**MEMBER A
(GEOGRAPHICAL
CONSTITUENCY)**

: *(Stands up)*
Thank you, President. Cycling is an ideal mode of “green commuting”. It can effectively reduce the need of the public to take motor transport and achieve reduction in carbon emissions from transportation and thus less pollution. However, the cycling policy in Hong Kong is lagging behind. Members of the public have not been able to use bicycles as a mode of transport in an environment in which motor vehicles and bicycles can safely share space. The Government should expeditiously draw reference from successful overseas experiences and development directions in promoting bicycles as a mode of transport and actively consider incorporating cycle tracks into the public transport network in mapping out the urban development blueprint. In addition, the Government must make corresponding rules and regulations and instil in the public the proper cycling attitude so that bicycles can truly become a safe and convenient mode of transport ... *(Student may express more views freely)* I call upon Members to support my motion. Thank you, Honourable Members.
(Sits down)

Role	Script		
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	<p>: I now put the question to you and that is: That the motion moved by <u>Member A</u> be passed.</p> <p>Will those in favour please raise their hands?¹ <i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i></p> <p>Those against please raise their hands. <i>(The Clerk counts the votes)</i></p>		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> (If <u>over half</u> of the Members present vote <u>in favour</u> of the motion) </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> (If <u>half or less than half</u> of the Members present vote <u>in favour</u> of the motion) </td> </tr> </table>	(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)
(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)		
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> : I think the question is agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion passed. </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> : I think the question is not agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion negatived. </td> </tr> </table>	: I think the question is agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion passed.	: I think the question is not agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion negatived.
: I think the question is agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion passed.	: I think the question is not agreed by a majority of the Members present. I declare the motion negatived.		

- End -

¹ To simplify the proceedings of the role-play, the passage of motions shall require a majority vote of the Members present. The voting procedure for real Council meetings is as follows:

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