

Mock Motion Debate

Strengthening control on light pollution

Recently, people have become more and more concerned about light pollution caused by external lighting such as advertising signboards, decorative lightings and lights on the external walls of buildings. Moreover, light pollution may also lead to energy wastage. Therefore, this Council urges the Administration to make laws to regulate external lighting as soon as possible to reduce the negative effects of light pollution.

Mock Motion Debate
Strengthening control on light pollution

Role	Script
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: Members' motion: Strengthening control on light pollution. Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member A who moves the motion)
MEMBER A (ELECTION COMMITTEE)	: (<i>Stands up</i>) President, I move that the motion be passed to urge the Government to make laws to regulate external lighting as soon as possible to ease the problem of light pollution. Although the Government has issued a paper to encourage the public to reduce light pollution and energy wastage, the content of the paper is neither clear nor comprehensive, and it is difficult to put what it says into action ... (<i>Student may express more views freely</i>) Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Government to make laws to reduce the negative effects of light pollution. 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 (Medical and Health Services Functional Constituency) raises his/her hand</i>)
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: Hon _____ (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member B (Medical and Health Services Functional Constituency))
MEMBER B (MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY)	: (<i>Stands up</i>) President, I support <u>Member A</u> 's motion. Although there is no research confirming that exposure to strong light will have negative effect on health, too much strong light may cause glare, discomfort or vision problems, and make people unable to rest and sleep well. Therefore, I support making laws on the control of light pollution sooner to ensure

Role	Script
	<p>people’s vision comfort ... <i>(Student may express more views freely)</i> President, I so submit and support <u>Member A</u>’s motion. Thank you.</p> <p><i>(Sits down)</i></p> <p><i>(The student acting as Legislative Council Member C (Tourism Functional Constituency) raises his/her hand)</i></p>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member C (Tourism Functional Constituency))
MEMBER C (TOURISM FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY)	: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I oppose <u>Member A</u> ’s motion. Hong Kong is known as the “Pearl of Orient” with its beautiful night scene. External lighting can make the night scene of Hong Kong more beautiful, thus attracting more tourists to Hong Kong. If the Government decides to make laws to regulate external lighting, the night scene of Hong Kong will surely lose much of its brightness and become less attractive to tourists ... <i>(Student may express more views freely)</i> President, I so submit and oppose <u>Member A</u> ’s motion. Thank you. <i>(Sits down)</i> <i>(The student acting as Legislative Council Member D (Geographical Constituency) raises his/her hand)</i>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member D (Geographical Constituency))
MEMBER D (GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY)	: <i>(Stands up)</i> Thank you, President. I support <u>Member A</u> ’s motion. The lighting in Hong Kong is usually powered by electricity. A lot of air pollutants are formed when electricity is produced. Using too much lighting will worsen the problem of air pollution. If the Government makes laws to regulate external lighting, this may not only save energy, but also reduce the pollutants produced from powering the lighting. As a result, the air will become cleaner and people will get

Role	Script
	<p>healthier ... <i>(Student may express more views freely)</i></p> <p>President, I so submit and support <u>Member A</u>'s motion. Thank you.</p> <p><i>(Sits down)</i></p> <p><i>(The student acting as Legislative Council Member E (Election Committee) raises his/her hand)</i></p>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council Member E (Election Committee))
MEMBER E (ELECTION COMMITTEE)	: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I oppose <u>Member A</u> 's motion. Shops' bright advertising signboards may attract the attention of pedestrians and help promote their business. If the Government regulates the switch-on and switch-off time of advertising signboards, this may reduce the promotional effect of signboards. Therefore, the shops may not be able to attract customers and so will get less business. In the absence of findings to prove that exposure to strong light will negatively affect human health, it is unfair for the Government to introduce control measures that harm the interests of shop operators ... <i>(Student may express more views freely)</i> President, I so submit and oppose <u>Member A</u> 's motion. Thank you. <i>(Sits down)</i>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: Does any other Member wish to speak? <i>(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)</i> <u>Hon _____</u> (Name of the student acting as Legislative Council 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>

Role	Script
HON (LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER)	: <i>(Stands up)</i> (Student to express his/her views) <i>(Sits down)</i>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <i>(All students who have raised their hands to indicate their wish to speak have finished delivering their speeches)</i> Does any other Member wish to speak? (If no Member indicates a wish to speak) Secretary for Environment and Ecology.
SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY	: <i>(Stands up)</i> President, I am glad that many Members have spoken on the issue. I know that they are concerned about the control of external lighting. Since 2016, the Government has been carrying out a voluntary scheme to encourage responsible persons for external lighting to switch off lights at a certain time at night. We are reviewing the effectiveness of the scheme and are collecting the views of different people. After studying various factors and drawing reference from other places, we will further consider whether to make laws to strengthen control on external lighting ... <i>(Student may come up with more points of his/her own)</i> Thank you, President. <i>(Sits down)</i>
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	: <u>Member A</u> , you may now reply. This debate will come to a close after <u>Member A</u> has replied. <u>Member A</u> .
MEMBER A (ELECTION COMMITTEE)	: <i>(Stands up)</i> Thank you, President. Hong Kong is small and crowded. As many shopping malls are built near residential areas, light pollution has a serious impact on people's daily lives. The Government should make laws as soon as possible to implement the switch-off requirement and strengthen control on light pollution, so as to ensure a better living environment for the people, reduce energy wastage and achieve the purpose of protecting the environment ... <i>(Student may</i>

Role	Script
	<i>express more views freely)</i> I call upon Members to support my motion. Thank you. <i>(Sits down)</i>

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL : I now put the question to you and that is:
That the motion moved by Member A be passed.

Will those in favour please raise their hands?¹
(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 motion)

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

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 negated.

- 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.