



Law-making process

Objectives

By the end of the session, students will better understand how a bill is scrutinized and passed by the Legislative Council, and the role of Legislative Council Members in the legislative process.

Overall duration

Two 45-minute sessions

Session 1

Activity 1 – Focus: Why are laws made?

- Refer to the database on the Legislative Council Website and select a bill that students are interested in (e.g. National Anthem Bill passed in June 2020);
- Show the video footage of a public officer giving a speech at the Legislative Council meeting to move the motion on Second Reading of the bill and explain the main purpose of the bill;
- Whole class discussion: "what is the purpose of the bill?", and "how different members of the public are affected by the bill?";
- Split your class into groups. Each group to suggest a new law to be made; and
- Each group presents its suggestion and explains what problems the suggested law will solve.

Time needed:

15 minutes

Online resources:

- Exhibition panels*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Understand → [Exhibition panels](#)
- Bills*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → LegCo Business → Council → [Bills](#)
- Webcast*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → [Webcast](#)

Activity 2 – Focus: How laws are made?

- One of the functions of the Legislative Council is enacting laws. Make use of the animation and PowerPoint slides under the "Education" section of the Legislative Council Website to give students a general introduction;
- Ask students to name the stages of the law-making process; and
- Further introduce the law-making process using a diagram of the process and examples of bills passed [see exhibition panels on "Enact laws" and "Law-making process" under the "Education" section of the Legislative Council Website].

Time needed:

10 minutes

Online resources:

- (a) *Legislative Council in Brief*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Understand → [Legislative Council in Brief](#)
- (b) *Animations and videos*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Understand → [Animations and videos](#)
- (c) *Exhibition panels*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Understand → [Exhibition panels](#)
- (d) *Powerpoint slides*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Teach → [Powerpoint slides](#)

Activity 3 – Focus: Voting on bills

- (a) Ask students where they prefer to go on the next Picnic Day. Write their suggestions on board;
- (b) Ask students how they prefer to make the decision [*randomly select a student to decide; select a few (two to three) students to decide for the class; discuss until a consensus is reached; majority rule*]. Ask students to explain their preferences;
- (c) Ask the question: "what form of decision making does the Legislative Council use for passing bills?" [*majority rule*]; and
- (d) Compare the procedures for voting on bills introduced by the Government and individual Members.

Time needed:

5 minutes

Online resources:

- (a) *Legislative Council in Brief*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Understand → [Legislative Council in Brief](#)
- (b) *PowerPoint slides*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Teach → [PowerPoint slides](#)

Activity 4 – Focus: Create a bill

- (a) Ask students to work in groups. Each group to deliberate on the new law that the group suggested to be made earlier in Activity 1 and work out the short title and the long title of bill [*a long title sets out the purposes of the bill in general terms*], and one/two clause(s) outlining how the bill will achieve its purposes. An example which is just a mock bill is given as follows:

Electronic Books Bill

long title of bill

A BILL

To

Provide for limiting the number of hours per day primary and secondary school students may spend on using electronic books at school.

Enacted by the Legislative Council.

1. Short title

This Ordinance may be cited as the Electronic Books Ordinance.

2. Interpretation

In this Ordinance —

electronic books (電子課本) means electronic textbooks, internet textbooks, online textbooks or digital textbooks, which is the digital version or electronic version corresponds to conventional printed textbooks, and the teaching materials system conveys information to students through electronic mode;

secondary school (中學) means a school which provides secondary education;

primary school (小學) means a school which provides primary education.

3. Maximum number of hours of using electronic books

The maximum number of hours per day a student may spend on using electronic books is five hours.

- (b) Each group presents its bill; and
- (c) The class votes and decides which bill should be submitted to the Legislative Council [using majority rule].

Time needed:

15 minutes

Online resources:

(a) Bills

Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → LegCo Business → Council Meetings → Bills

Session 2

Activity 5 – Revision: Law-making process

- (a) Revise the law-making process with students; and
- (b) Ask students to name in sequence the different stages of the law-making process.

Time needed:

5 minutes

Online resources:

- (a) *Exhibition panels*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Understand →
[Exhibition panels](#)
- (b) *PowerPoint slides*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Teach →
[PowerPoint slides](#)

Activity 6 – Focus: Role-play on law-making process

- (a) Refer to DIY role-play on the law-making process under the "Education" section of the Legislative Council Website. Follow the instructions and choose a mock bill and its corresponding script to go through the law-making process [alternatively, teacher can choose to use a bill developed by students in the previous session];
- (b) Select a President of the Legislative Council, a Clerk to the Legislative Council and a public officer;
- (c) Divide the rest of the class into (i) the Election Committee; (ii) functional constituencies; and (iii) geographical constituencies through direct elections [(i) Members returned by the Election Committee broadly represent different sectors and classes of the community; (ii) Members returned by functional constituencies represent sectors which are substantial and important to the development of the community; and (iii) Members returned by geographical constituencies through direct elections represent different territories of Hong Kong]. Students may work in groups and decide which constituency they represent;
- (d) Brief students on the rules of role-play which have been set out in reference to the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council;
- (e) Brief students on the stages of the law-making process that are to be covered during the role-play;
- (f) Allow time for groups to prepare their speeches and determine their position. Students are encouraged to express their own views freely in accordance with the roles of stakeholders they represent, not just following scripts; and
- (g) After the role-play, ask students to research and identify bills that are currently undergoing the three-reading procedure at the Legislative Council.

Time needed:

40 minutes

Online resources:

- (a) *PowerPoint slides*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Teach →
[PowerPoint slides](#)
- (b) *DIY role-play on the law-making process*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → Education → Teach →
[DIY role-play on the law-making process](#)
- (c) *Bills*
Legislative Council Website (www.legco.gov.hk) → LegCo Business → Council → [Bills](#)

Extension activities

Extend classroom teaching to the Legislative Council by:

- (a) Participating in a guided tour of the Legislative Council Complex to enhance students' understanding of the work of the Council. For details, please visit the "Visiting" section of the Legislative Council Website at www.legco.gov.hk; and
- (b) Observing a Council meeting (usually held on Wednesdays while the Council is in session) at the Public Gallery of the Legislative Council Chamber. Please call 3919 3399 for seat reservation.