

Legislative Council Building



In the early years, the Governor of Hong Kong generally served as the British plenipotentiary in the Far East, who was a diplomatic agent with full power and authority. A Colonial Secretary also assisted in legal matters.

Hong Kong's first governor was Sir Henry Pottinger, who took office in 1843. Although Pottinger's tenure spanned only a year, he established the executive and legislative councils, with one designated to discuss political affairs and the other to design legal codes. The councils did not convene often, however, and Pottinger held wide-ranging power to decide on policy.

The Legislative Council's authority did not materialise until years later.

! Key Points

Legislative Council

- Increasing level of importance to Hong Kong
- Brief history and functions

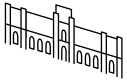
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- History as Supreme Court
- Architecture
- Changes of use

Future of Legislative Council Building



Proposed new Central Government Offices (centre) and Legislative Council Building (left) with Central district in the background



Questions to be completed after Lesson 2

1. How have the Legislative Council's role and function changed through the years?

2. Name three external architectural designs that incorporated Chinese features in it.

3. Which feature of the Legislative Council Building projects the majesty of the law?

4. The chief functions of the Legislative Council are to serve the people of Hong Kong. What are the ways that you, the public, can contribute to the Legislative Council? (e.g. electing Legislative Councilors, auditing meetings, or even staging demonstrations to voice opinions.) What would you like your Legislative Councilor to do for you?



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5. **[For field trip]** Name five geometrical shapes that you can identify on the Legislative Council Building (e.g. a triangle of the pediment, a dome).