

*You are the student representative of Hong Kong School attending an inter-school youth forum named “Is Hong Kong a liveable city?” You are to present a short speech of around 400 words.*

1. Honourable Chairman, school representatives, ladies and gentlemen,
2. I am Chris Wong, the representative of Hong Kong Secondary School. I am really honoured to address the assembly here on the topic “Is Hong Kong a liveable City?” My answer is simple – yes. Being born and raised here, I love Hong Kong. I am sure you feel the same.
3. I said that Hong Kong is liveable not just out of my own sentiments for the city but because a recent international report has actually rated Hong Kong as the most liveable city in the world. I know that has caused some debate among skeptics who find it hard to believe we have won this coveted title.
4. Why not? Hong Kong is a safe, fair and free city for everybody. I am not counting all its other laurels such as the clean environment, the beautiful landscape, cheap and dependable public transportation system etc.
5. You have to agree with me that wherever and whenever we go hanging out with our friends, we feel safe. Crime rate is low and our police force is internationally acclaimed for its high quality service to the public. Of course, Hong Kong is safe not only because there is the police but because we are all law-abiding citizens who love this city of ours and we keep it safe for all to prosper.
6. A liveable city must be a fair and free city with freedom being upheld. And all the citizens regardless of race and colour are to share this freedom. You must have seen how the Filipino and Indonesian helpers gather at various posh shopping malls in Central and Victoria Park on Sundays and public holidays. They are there undisturbed among their own folks enjoying a few hours of togetherness. The locals appreciate their service to Hong Kong and tolerate their taking up much of the valuable public grounds.
7. Have you ever participated in rallies and demonstrations so common in Hong Kong during the weekends? Many of the participants are young people. These rallies are always conducted in an orderly fashion with traffic lanes closed to facilitate the demonstrators. Freedom of expression as well as equal opportunities for all are respected and safeguarded. As young people, we can pursue our dreams whether our families are rich or poor. Those who are deprived, there are the Comprehensive Social Security Scheme and many other grants and various funding to support them.
8. There are arguments saying that Hong Kong is not so liveable because the air is polluted and living standards high, etc. but be realistic, there are bound to be problems. I am not saying Hong Kong is a perfect city to live in. As long as the government is dealing with the challenges and our voice is heard, we should all be supportive. I cannot think of another city more liveable than Hong Kong. Young people gathered here, I know you feel the same and that like me, you will all work hard to contribute to our city – Hong Kong.
9. Thank you for your attention. (515 words)