

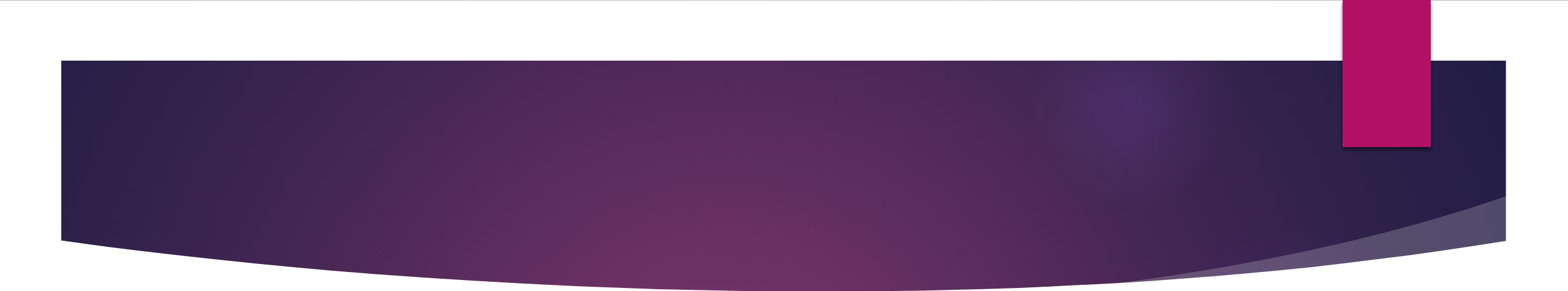
# SOCIAL STUDIES

WHY DEMOCRACY IS PREFERABLE TO AUTOCRACY

# LESSON 5

**By the end of the lesson the student will be able to:**

- 1. state at least four reasons why democracy is preferable to dictatorship or autocratic rule.**
- 2. explain at least four reasons why democracy is preferable to dictatorship or autocratic rule.**



**Autocracy is simply a rule by one person who has absolute control over all branches of government. Autocracy and dictatorship are often used interchangeably.**

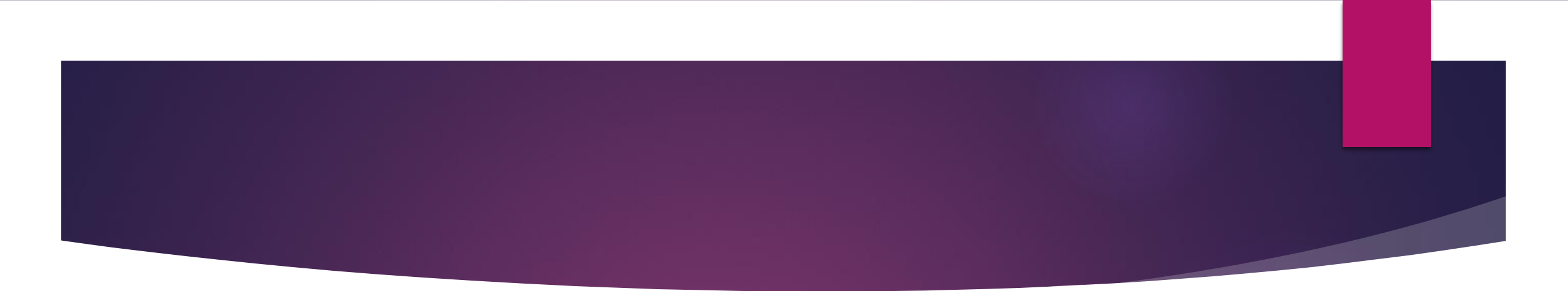
# WHY DEMOCRACY IS PREFERABLE TO DICTATORSHIP OR AUTOCRATIC RULE

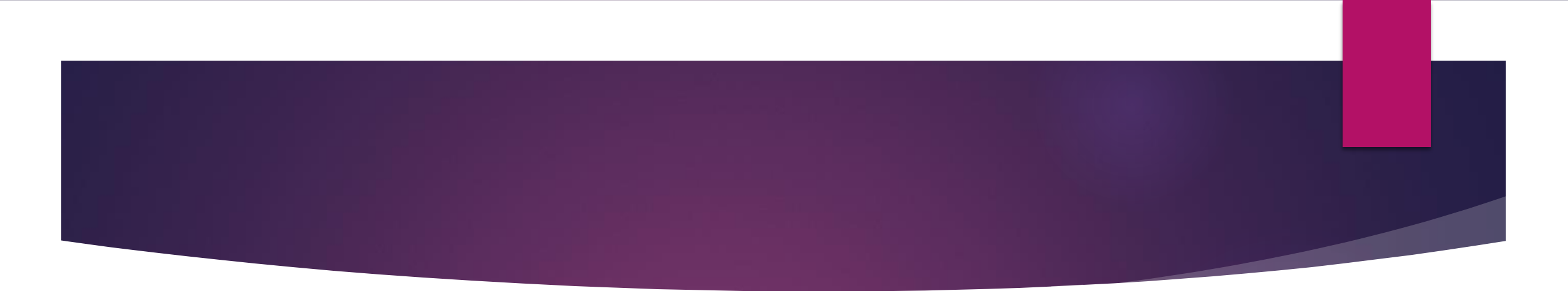
- **Suppression of opposing views**
- Dictators do not tolerate varied views.
- However, democratic governments allow room for freedom of expression and the views expressed by the people are respected.



- **Abuse of human rights**

- In dictatorships, rulers wield absolute power.
- They rule according to their whims and caprices.
- Human rights such as freedoms of speech and association, and the right to fair trials are not allowed.
- There is no respect for human rights.
- But in democracies, the rights of individuals are guaranteed by the constitution and are respected by governments.

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- **Absence of opposition**
  - The presence of a opposition party is necessary for national development and progress.
  - The opposition keeps the incumbent government on it toes.
  - By criticizing it obnoxious policies and programmes and standing ready to wrestle political power through the ballot box if it performs badly.
  - Dictators do not allow opposition, so they turn to misrule with impunity.

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- **Difficult change of government:**
  - The procedure for changing governments in a democracy is relatively smooth as there are stipulated processes to be followed after their tenure expires.
  - Autocratic leaders do not have a fixed tenure of office and always entrench their rule.
  - Autocratic rulers are mostly removed from office through violent means such as military coup d'état and assassinations.
  - This draws the nation back in terms of development.

# Exercise 5

**Discuss four reasons why democracy is more preferable to autocratic system of government.**