

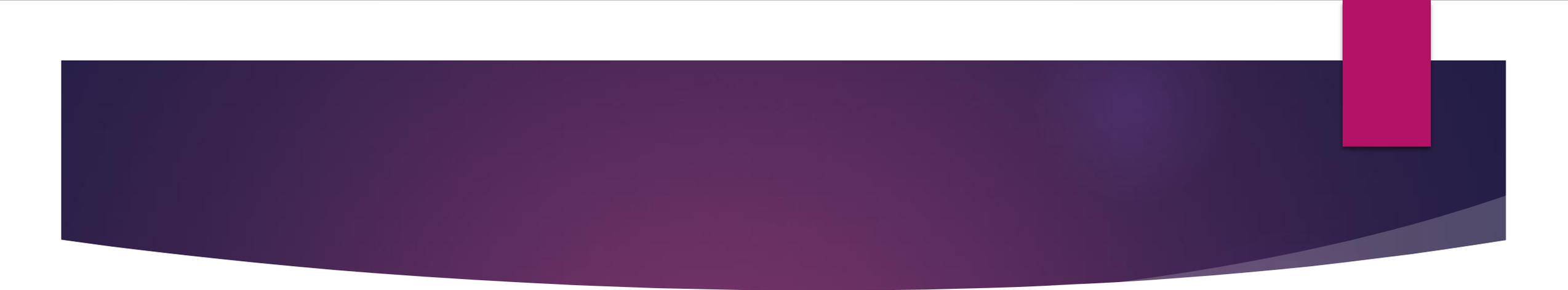
SOCIAL STUDIES

WHY DEMOCRACY IS PREFERABLE TO AUTOCRACY

LESSON 5

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

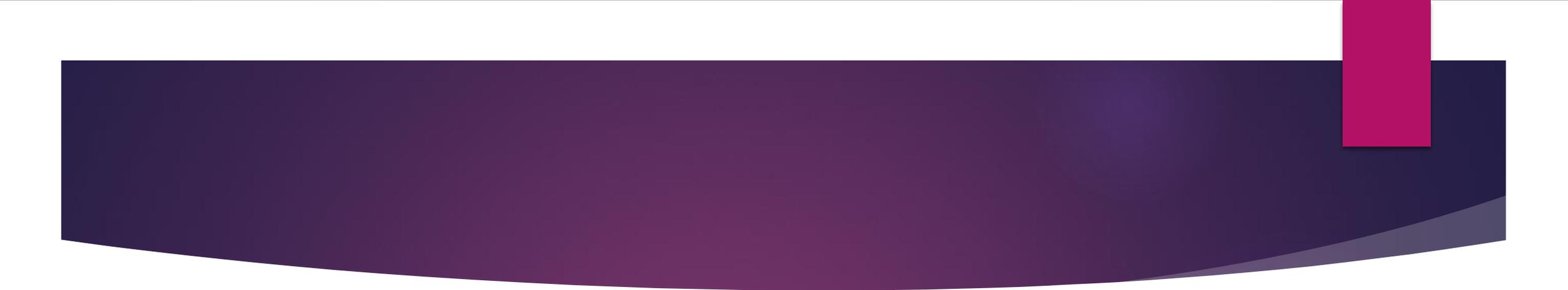
- 1. state at least four reasons why democracy is preferable to dictatorship or autocratic rule.**
- 2. explain at least four reasons why democracy is preferable to dictatorship or autocratic rule.**



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

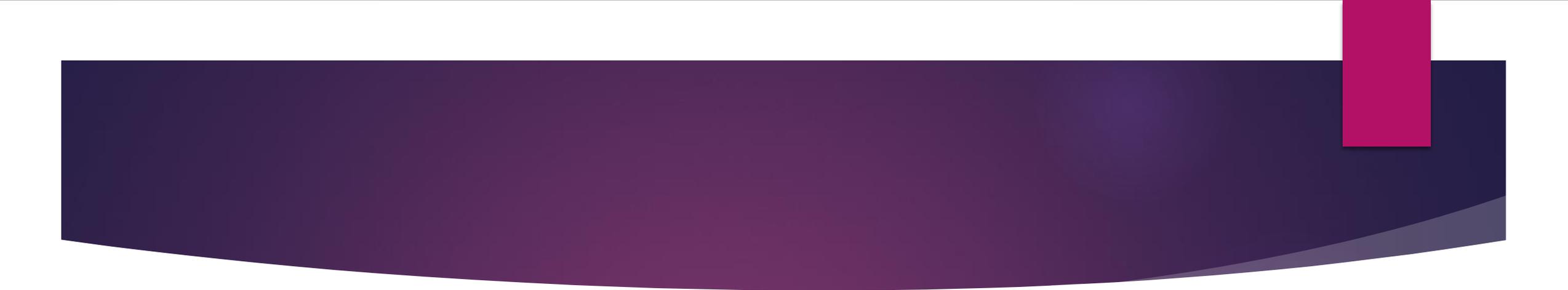
WHY DEMOCRACY IS PREFERABLE TO DICTATORSHIP OR AUTOCRATIC RULE

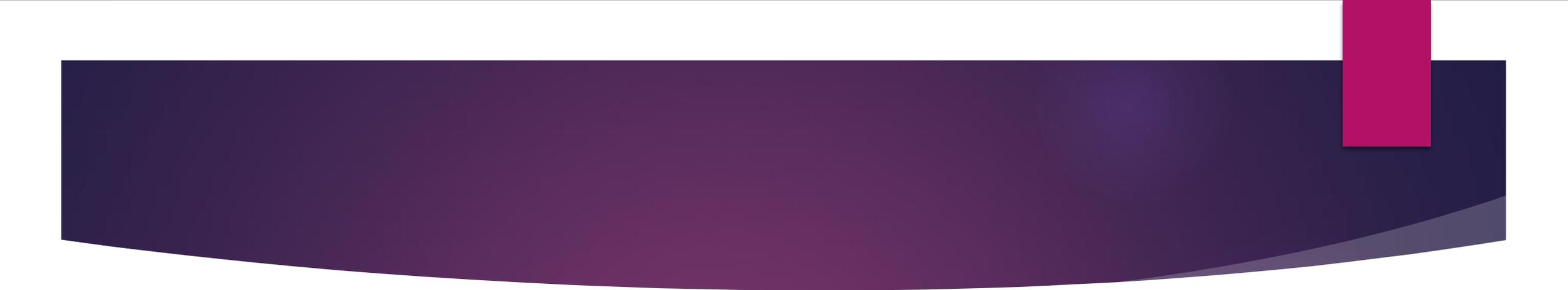
- **Suppression of opposing views**
- Dictators do not tolerate varied views.
- However, democratic governments allow room for freedom of expression and the views expressed by the people are respected.



- **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.



- **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.