**Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in Extracts 1 are in relation to the young Henry VIII as king.**

**Knowledge to refute**

**Knowledge to support**

**Extract 1**

Self-interest ruled at the accession of Henry VIII. The reaction against Henry VII’s government was emotional and unsupported by hard evidence. After Henry VII’s death Empson and Dudley were convicted of treason in show trials. They were imprisoned for a year, then beheaded; the executions were a calculated ploy to enable the new regime under Henry VIII to profit from the stability created by his father without incurring any of the stigma attached to it. Henry VIII showed his mind by these proceedings; something of his ruthlessness was revealed even though he was barely eighteen years of age by his accession. Henry

*Adapted from John Guy, ‘Tudor England’, 1988.*