**Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in Extract 1 are in relation to Henry VIII’s rule in England**

**Knowledge to refute**

**Knowledge to support**

**Extract 1**

Monarchy was personal. Everything, therefore, depended on the king’s willingness to devote himself to business. Most State papers were read to or summarised to him and he did almost all his work by word of mouth. Only on issues which engaged him personally was he willing to become fully committed. On the other hand, Henry was not willing to delegate consistently. He also reserved the freedom to intervene as and when he wanted. The need to accommodate Henry VIII’s particular version of personal monarchy explains much. In essence there were two options: The first was that the Royal Council should attempt to provide some continuity in government and the second that a chief minister should take over, leaving the king as overall director. Neither met the difficulties fully and the story of the reign is of fluctuation as the options were tried in turn and successively broke down.

*Adapted from Eric W. Ives, ‘Henry VIII’, in Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, 2004..*