Queen Victoria

When Victoria was crowned the Queen of England in 1837, she enjoyed tremendous popular support among the people. In the previous decade, its people had been quite divided, as the country was economically devastated by the Napoleonic Wars. The previous two monarchs, William IV and George IV did little to inspire confidence, and their policies were useless in solving the nation's problems. Compared to these two men, the new queen brought both excitement and promise of better days.

Unfortunately, her popularity did not last long, as the public was quickly disappointed by her quick temper, stubborn nature, and petty politics. Her husband, Prince Albert, was **instrumental** in helping to improve her public image. He was her closest advisor and she relied heavily on his practical advice. When he died in 1861, the Queen was bereft and spent the rest of her life in deep mourning, rarely appearing in public, and then always dressed in black. The royals were devoted to each other and her image of a loving wife and mother to her children eventually won the British over.

The legacy of Queen Victoria is very impressive. During her sixty-three-year reign she led the nation through many changes, and her decisions and policies made Great Britain a very wealthy and powerful nation. The best example of England's new, high status in the world was the Great Exhibition of 1851 held in the Crystal Palace in London. Countries came from all over the world to display their machines and inventions, though most were from the host country. When the Queen arrived at the huge glass and iron building on opening day, trumpets sounded and a choir sang as she walked its length. The scene was befitting such an important display of progress and splendor. By her death in 1901, she had successfully set her country above and beyond all other nations, and she remains one of the most popular and accomplished monarchs of all time.

Which is a synonym for the word "instrumental" in the second paragraph?
    A. crucial   B. lacking   C. minor   D. unimportant

Based on passage information, which word would **NOT** describe Queen Victoria?
    A. loving   B. head-strong   C. weak   D. influential

According to the reading, Great Britain ___ due to ___.
    A. expanded … British military might
    B. mourned… Prince Albert's advice
    C. thrived … Queen Victoria's influence
    D. advanced … Great Exhibition of 1851

Which sentence about Queen Victoria **BEST** summarizes her role?
    A. She was a much better ruler than any of the other British monarchs.
    B. The queen owed all of her success to her beloved husband Albert.
    C. Queen Victoria used the 1851 Great Exhibition to become powerful.
    D. The monarch was key to the success of Great Britain in the 1800's.