

Question 24 (4 marks)

Assess the impact of atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS) on the scientific understanding of the effects of trace elements. 4

The AAS has been a very useful implement in understanding the effects of trace elements.

An AAS gives different chemicals a different colour so when the elements mixture is placed in the spectrometer it emits a different light for each. Each shows a different colour according to the chemical element that it represents.

The use of the AAS has lead to the understanding of certain elements, and the discovery of many element that were previously unheard of.