

**Question 24** (4 marks)

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

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Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy has allowed us to detect trace elements in areas such as water to PPM (parts per million) and PPB (parts per billion). This has greatly aided us in controlling water quality. It has also led to new scientific discoveries, such as the fact that some trace elements that are harmful in large amounts are actually necessary for life in small amounts.