

Question 24 (4 marks)

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

4

Historically there was not really an accurate method for detecting trace elements. The discovery and invention of atomic absorption spectroscopy allowed for trace elements to be detected in concentrations as small as 1 ppm and then ~~the~~ monitor the effects the trace elements have on various substances/organisms. This has allowed for continually improving chemical safety procedures to be taken in not so common things and also very common and vital things such as food.