

Question 24 (4 marks)

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

AAS has allowed the determination of concentration of ~~so~~ minute amounts of metals in substances. It is a sensitive and accurate method that can be used for a great number of metals. For example in South Australia, pasture animals were not as healthy as expected, AAS showed that there were ~~to~~ cobalt deficiencies in the ~~pasture so~~ ground grazed in, whilst legume crops could not be well grown due to molybdenum deficiencies. AAS also ^{allows} us to ~~then~~ ^{and understand} calculate the quantity of trace elements required in living organisms for their healthy survival and functioning.