

Question 24 (4 marks)

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

4

Due to AAS we have been able to pick up what are called trace elements in our foods & animals & plants foods. It has mainly effected the farming and crop growing industry. This is because we can now see the phosphate, nitrate and other trace elements in the soils and work out their concentration in soils (with other tests). Now soils can be maintained to give the correct trace element levels in the soils to ensure healthy crops.

Even with our food we have been able to detect what 'minerals' are contained & if ~~if~~ we don't, say, eat red meat the Fe^{+} deficiency can be corrected with tablets.

It has enabled farmers to achieve greater efficiency in crops & enabled us to stay healthier.