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Sunshade for the Planet Even with the best will¹ in the world , reducing our carbon emissions is not going to prevent global warming. It has become clear that even if we take the most strong measures to control emissions , the uncertainties in our climate models still leave open the possibility of extreme warming and rises in sea level. At the same time , resistance by governments and special interest groups makes it quite possible that the actions suggested by climate scientists might not be implemented soon enough.

Fortunately , if the worst comes to the worst² , scientists still have a few tricks up their sleeves³. For the most part they have strongly resisted discussing these options for fear of inviting a sense of complacency that might thwart efforts to tackle the root of the problem. Until now , that is. A growing number of researchers are taking a fresh look at large-scale “ geoengineering ” projects that might be used to counteract global warming. “ I use the analogy of methadone⁴, ” says Stephen Schneider , a climate researcher at Stanford University in California who was among the first to draw attention to global warming. “ If you have a heroin addict , the correct treatment is hospitalization , and a long rehab. But if they absolutely refuse , methadone is better than heroin. ” Basically the idea is to apply “ sunscreen ” to the whole planet. One astronomer has come up with a radical plan to cool Earth. launch trillions of

feather-light discs into space , where they would form a vast cloud that would block the sun ' s rays.It ' s controversial , but recent studies suggest there are ways to deflect just enough of the sunlight reaching the Earth ' s surface to counteract the warming produced by the greenhouse effect.Global climate models show that blocking just 1.8 per cent of the incident energy in the sun ' s rays would cancel out the warming effects produced by a doubling of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. That could be crucial , because even the most severe emissions-control measures being proposed would leave us with a doubling of carbon dioxide by the end of this century , and that would last for at least a century more. 词汇 :

emission/i5miFEEn/n.发射 , 发射物 heroin/5herEuin/n.海洛因 complacency/kEm5pleIsEnsl/n.满足

hospitalization/7hCspitElai5zeiFEEn / n.住院治疗 thwart/WwC:t/v.反对 , 阻挠 rehab/ri:hAb/n.接受康复治疗 geoengineering n.地质工程 astronomer/ E5strRnEmE(r)/n.天文学家 trillion/ 5triljEn/n.(英、德) 抵消.抵制 百万兆(10¹⁸).(美、法) 万亿 , 兆 (10¹²) controversial/7kCntrE5vE:FEI

/analogy/E5nAIEdVi/n.类似.模拟 adj.有争议的 deflect/di5flekt/v.(使)偏转 methadone/ 5meWEdEun/n.美沙酮 , 美散痛 注释 : 1. the best will : 最好的愿望 2. if the worst comes to theworst : 如果最最糟糕的事情发生了。这是英式英语的用法 , 在美式英语中它说成if worst comes to worst。在不同的语境中 , 有不同的译法 , 如 : “ If the worst comes to the worst , ” Becky thought , “ my retreat “ secure.and I have the right- hand seat inthe barouche. ” 蓓墓想道 : “ 逼到最后一条路 , 逃难是不怕的了 , 在他的

大马车里，我稳稳地有一个位子了。”又如：If the worst comes to the worst, we'll sell the car.大不了我们把车卖了。3. scientists still have a few tricks up their sleeves: 科学家们仍然有些不为人所知的招数。have something up one's sleeve是英语成语，意思是：to have a secret idea or plan, 有锦囊妙计，有所保留的，秘而不宣的谋略或计划，例如：If this trip doesn't work out I've still got a few ideas up my sleeve. 4. methadone: 美沙酮，一种有效的合成麻醉药，它不像口马啡或海洛因那样容易让人上瘾，在戒毒治疗中被用作这些毒品的替代品。练习: 1. According to the first two paragraphs, the author thinks that A strong measures have been taken by the government to prevent global warming. B to reduce carbon emissions is all impossible mission. C despite the difficulty, scientists have some options to prevent global warming. D actions suggested by scientists will never be realized. 2. Scientists resist talking about their options because they don't want people to A know what they are doing. B feel their efforts are useless. C think the problem has been solved. D see the real problem. 3. What does Stephen Schneider say about a heroin addict and methadone? A Methadone is an effective way to treat a hard heroin addict. B Methadone is not a correct way to treat a heroin addict. C Hospitalization together with methadone can work effectively with a heroin addict. D Methadone and heroin are equally effective in treating a heroin addict. 4. What is Stephen Schneider's idea of preventing global warming? A To ask governments to take stronger measures. B To increase the sunlight reaching the Earth. C To apply sunscreen to the Earth. D To decrease greenhouse gases. 5.

What is NOT true of the effectiveness of “ sunscreen ” , according to the last paragraph? A It deflects sunlight reaching the Earth to counteract the warming. B It blocks the incident energy in the sun ’ s rays. C It is a controversial method. D It decreases greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. 相关推荐：把职称英语页面加入收藏 2009年职称英语考试试题及答案点评专题 编辑推荐：为帮助广大学员有效备考，我们特推出了职称英语2010年网络辅导课程,相信会让大家有耳目一新的视听感受。现在报名职称英语辅导，赠送2009年精品课程及考试E币。点击查看详情》 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 www.100test.com