1) What do you think are the major issues facing DHS and homeland security?

The Department of Homeland Security faces many difficulties in the integration of its diverse constituent agencies causing a lack of cohesion in the administration. Moreover, DHS has to overcome adversities in the coordination of the activities of the body, especially in the operations where the functions of the various components intertwine. There is also little cooperation in the information and assets sharing. Additionally, a level of unpredictability of the attacks and catastrophes in the United States makes it difficult to take timely preventive measures.

Homeland Security also struggles with the mismanagement of the shared programs that result in the unreliable data regarding inventories and costs. The acquisition programs of the DHS also lack control over their performance.

The department does not properly function and secure the management policies. The poor implementation of the Information Technology systems makes DHS vulnerable to cyber-attacks. This exposure may potentially jeopardize its critical infrastructure as well as information on agents.

The Transportation Security Administration lacks a systematic approach to dealing with the evolving nature of threats.
Illegal immigrants and smugglers also pose serious hazards to the immigration agencies as they target those crossing the border legally as well as border patrol officers. They also attempt to bribe the authorities to facilitate their illegal activities.

Question

What are the possible solutions to these challenges that DHS and homeland security are facing?

2) Which agencies do you think should remain within DHS and which agencies should be separated?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should be an independent institution. This exclusion from Homeland Security will ensure the flexibility to make fast decisions in case of disasters, without having to seek consultations from the Department headquarters. In such a way, the agency will not have to compete for the resources of Homeland Security.

The other twenty-one components should remain within the Department of Homeland Security because of the close relation between their functions regarding security maintenance.

Question

What are the disadvantages of further separation of the agencies from the DHS and homeland security?