Ranking Global Problems

Discuss with a partner or group whether you agree with the following:

Americans rank the following top 10 issues (in order of priority) as most important:

1. Trying to solve the problems of crime and drugs
2. Trying to find cures for serious diseases
3. Taking steps to contain the cost of health care
4. Trying to ensure people have jobs and decent wages
5. Trying to improve the quality of public school problems
6. Taking steps to ensure better leaders in elected positions
7. Taking steps to reduce the budget deficit
8. Trying to solve the problem of teenage pregnancies
9. Trying to improve the quality of our environment
10. Trying to solve the nation's racial problems

The top 10 problems to be faced in the next 25 to 50 years (in order of importance):

1. Spread of crime and violence to all places
2. Starvation in many parts of the world
3. Congestion of cities and highways
4. Divisions between rich and poor in this country
5. Overpopulation
6. Racism
7. Lack of jobs that pay decent wages
8. Severe air pollution
9. Severe water pollution
10. Health problems caused by man-made chemicals