

## 89695 - Can You Combine `Isha with Maghrib If `Isha Is Very Late?

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### the question

I have a son who is twelve years old and he is asking: Is it permissible for him to join 'Isha with Maghrib and pray it immediately after Maghrib? He gets up very early to pray Fajr before the sun rises, then he goes to school and in a few months from now the time for Fajr will be very early and the time of 'Isha will be very late for him because of his studies, it will be at 11.45 p.m.

### Summary of answer

If the time for 'Isha is very late and the time for Fajr is early, in that case you can pray 'Isha early by joining it to Maghrib.

### Detailed answer

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### Importance of offering prayer at their fixed times

The basic principle is that each [prayer should be offered at the time](#) appointed for it by Shari'ah. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Verily, As-Salah (the prayer) is enjoined on the believers at fixed hours” [al-Nisa 4:103]

### Can you pray 'Isha early?

Joining two prayers is not permissible unless there is a reason such as travelling, rain or hardship. If the time for ['Isha](#) is very late and the time for [Fajr](#) is early, such that it will cause hardship to offer 'Isha on time, in that case there is nothing wrong with joining it to Maghrib at the time of the earlier prayer.

Shaykh Ibn ‘Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked about a country in which the disappearance of the red afterglow which signals the onset of the time for ‘Isha comes very late and it is too hard for them to wait for it.

He replied:

“If the red afterglow does not disappear until dawn comes, or it disappears at a time when there is not enough time to pray ‘Isha before dawn comes, then they come under the rulings of those who have no time for ‘Isha. They should estimate its time based on the nearest country to them where there is considerable time to [pray ‘Isha](#) , and it was also suggested that they should base it on the prayer times in Makkah, because it is the mother of cities (Umm al-Qura).

If the red afterglow disappears a long time before ‘Isha and there is enough time to pray ‘Isha, then they must wait until it disappears, unless waiting for it will cause them hardship. In that case it is permissible for them to join ‘Isha with Maghrib at the time of the earlier prayer, so as to ward off hardship and difficulty, because Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Allah intends for you ease, and He does not want to make things difficult for you.” [al-Baqarah 2:185]

“and [Allah] has not laid upon you in religion any hardship.” [al-Hajj 22:78]

In Sahih Muslim, ‘Abd-Allah ibn ‘Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) joined Zuhr and ‘Asr, and Maghrib and ‘Isha in Madinah at a time when there was no fear and no rain. They said: What did he intend by that? He said: “He intended that his ummah should not be put in difficulty” i.e., that they should not be faced with hardship due to not joining prayers. May Allah help us all to do that which is good and right. (Majmu’ Fatawa al-Shaykh Ibn ‘Uthaymin, 12/206)

And Allah knows best.