126518 - Can they join Maghrib and ‘Isha’ prayers at the university so as to pray in congregation?

the question

We are a group of students studying in Britain, and we finish our classes just before the adhaan of Maghrib and wait in the college until the time for prayer, then we pray Maghrib in congregation, then each of us goes to where he is living, and when the time for ‘Isha’ prayer comes, each one of us prays alone. Can we pray Maghrib and ‘Isha’ in congregation in the college so that we can attain the virtue of praying in congregation, and we can all help one another to keep praying regularly, or not?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

What is required is to offer the prayers at the proper times, as Allaah has enjoined. Allaah, may He be glorified, says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Verily, As-Salaah (the prayer) is enjoined on the believers at fixed hours”

[al-Nisa’ 4:103].

It is not permissible to join two prayers except for an excuse that dictates that, such as travel, rain or sickness. What you have mentioned of being able to pray in congregation is not an excuse that makes it permissible to join prayers.

Ibn Abi Shaybah (2/346) narrated that Abu Moosa al-Ash’ari and ‘Umar ibn al-Khattaab (may Allaah be pleased with them) said: Joining two prayers without an excuse is a major sin.

Based on that, you should pray Maghrib at the proper time, then when the time for ‘Isha’ begins, everyone who is near a mosque should pray it in the mosque, and those who are far from the mosque may pray it with his brothers, if anyone is around, otherwise he may pray alone, and he

excused in that case.

And Allaah knows best.