Dua for students

Prayers for study, understanding and memory

Arabic with English meanings. Each reading cites its source.

Contents

1. Before class 2
2. Before studying 3
3. For understanding while reading 4
4. When feeling anxious 5
5. For light, insight and a strong memory 6
6. After studying 7
7. When studying something difficult 8
8. For concentration 9
9. For victory and prosperity 10
10. For an increase in knowledge 11
11. A receptive ear · Qur’an 69:12 12
12. Sūrat al-Aʿlā · Qur’an 87 13
13. A teacher’s prayer on the way to class 16
14. A prayer for students 18
15. A blessing for those who learn and teach 19

We pray to the Almighty to grant tawfīq (Divine success) to our youth and elders in following these recitations and retaining what they study. — Hasanayn Kassamali

Before class

اَللّٰهُمَّ أَخْرِجْنِيْ مِنْ ظُلُمَاتِ الْوَهْمِ وأكرمني بِنُوْرِ الْفَهْمِ

O GOD, please bring me out of the darkness of doubt and favour me with the light of comprehension,

اَللّٰهُمَّ افْتَحْ عَلَيْنَا أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ وانشر عَلَيْنَا خَزَائِنَ عُلُوْمِكَ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِيْنَ

O GOD open to us the doors of your mercy and unfold for us the treasure of your knowledge by your mercy O the most merciful of the merciful ones.

Source transliteration

Allhumma Akhrijni min zulumatil vahmi ,wa akrimni be nuril fahmi . Allahumma afta alayna abwaba rahmateka, wa anshur alyna khazaena uloomeka be rahmateka ya arrahamar rahemeen.

Exam variant

Recite the opening line of this prayer, then use this ending.

وَافْتَحْ عَلَيَّ بِمَعْرِفَةِ الْعِلْمِ

Wa iftaḥ ʿalayya bimaʿrifati al-ʿilm.

And open upon me the knowledge of wisdom.

Duas for Students attributes this prayer to Khulalasatul Adhkaar. In the Academy’s version for reading and retention, أخرجنا and أكرمنا mean “bring us out” and “honour us”. The Academy opens with the basmala and blessings on Muhammad and his family, recommends closing with the blessings, and cites al-Qummī’s Al-Bāqiyāt al-Sālihāt.

Sources · Duas for Students, p. 1 · Duʿās for Developing a Good Memory, p. 2 · Duas.org · Dua before class · Dua before reading · Duas at Exams

Recitation · Duas.org

Before studying

اللهم انْفَعْنِي بِمَا عَلَّمْتَنِي وعلمني مَا يَنْفَعُنِي

Oh Allah! Make useful for me what you have taught me and teach me knowledge that will be useful to me.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ فَهْمَ النَّبِيِّينَ وحفظ الْمُرْسَلِينَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ

Oh Allah! I ask you for the understanding of the prophets and the memory of the messengers, and those nearest to you.

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ لِسَانِي عَامِرًا بِذِكْرِكَ وقلبي بِخَشْيَتِك

Oh Allah! Make my tongue full of your remembrance and my heart with awe of you.

إِنَّكَ عَلَى مَا تَشَاءُ قَدِيرٌ وأنت حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ ونعم الْوَكِيلُ

Oh Allah! You do whatever you wish, and you are my availer and protector and best of aid.

Source transliteration

Allahumma infa’nii bimaa ‘allamtanii wa’allimnii maa yanfa’uunii. Allahumma inii as’aluka fahmal-nabiyyen wa hifzal mursaleen al-muqarrabeen. Allahumma ijal leesanee ‘aiman bi dhikrika wa qalbi bi khashyatika. Innaka ‘ala ma-tasha’u qadeer wa anta hasbun-allahu wa na’mal wakeel.

Sources · Duas for Students, p. 1 · Duas.org · Dua Before Studying 1

Recitation · Duas.org

For understanding while reading

اللهم أَكْرِمْنِيْ بِنُوْرِ الْفَهْمِ وخرجني مِنْ ظُلُمَاتِ الْوَهْمِ وافتح عَلَيْنَا أَبْوَابَ عِلْمَكَ وانشر عَلَيْنَا خُزَّانَ مَعْرِفَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِيْنَ

O Allah, honor me by the light of understanding and take me out from the darkness's of doubt and open upon us the doors of Your knowledge and open upon us the treasure of Your recognition, O the best of the Merciful ones.

اَللَّهُمَّ وَفِّقْنِيْ فِيْ الْمُطَالَعَةِ بِحَلِّ جَمِيْعِ مُشْكِلاَتِ الْمَسَائِلِ مِنَ الْكُتُبِ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِيْنَ

O Allah, and give me Tawfeeq to the study and solving all the difficult problems through books. By Your mercy, O the best of the merciful ones

Source transliteration

Allaahumma akrimnee binooril fahmi wa kharrajanee min z'ulumaatil wahmi waftah' a'lainaa abwaaba i'lmak. Wan shur a'lainaa khuzzaanu ma'rifatika yaa arh'amar raah'imeen. Allaahumma waffiqnee fil mut'aala'ti bih'ablee jamee-i' mushkilaatil masaa-ili minal kutubi birah'matika yaa arh'amar raah'imeen.

Listed as "Dua before study 2 (Tohfatul Hashmiya)". The PDF cites Zubtat al-Asraar, a manuscript inscribed in 1229 AH. This prayer adds a specific petition about difficult questions in books.

Sources · Duas for Students, p. 1–2 · Duas.org · Dua before study 2

Recitation · Duas.org

When feeling anxious

اللهم إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْهَمِّ والحزن

Oh Allah, I seek refuge in You from worry and grief,

وأعوذ بِكَ مِنَ العَجْزِ والكسل

from helplessness and laziness,

وأعوذ بِكَ مِنَ الْجُبْنِ والبخل

from cowardice and stinginess,

وأعوذ بِكَ مِنْ غَلَبَةِ الدَّيْنِ وقهر الرجال

and from overpowering of debt and from oppression of men

Source transliteration

Allâhumma innî a‘ûdhu bika min al-hammi wa al-hazan. Wa a‘ûdhu bika min al-‘ajzi wa al-kasal. Wa a‘ûdhu bika min al-jubni wa al-bukhl. Wa a‘ûdhu bika min ghalabat id-dayni wa qahr ir-rijal.

Sources · Duas for Students, p. 2 · Duas.org · Du‘a for removing Anxiety

Recitation · Duas.org

For light, insight and a strong memory

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ • اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَىٰ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad.

سُبْحانَ مَنْ لا يَعْتَدِي عَلى أَهْلِ مَمْلَكَتِهِ سُبْحانَ مَنْ لا يَأْخُذُ أَهْلَ الأَرْضِ بِأَلْوَانِ العَذَابِ
سُبْحانَ الرَّؤُوفِ الرَّحِيمِ

Glory be to Him who does not oppress the inhabitants of His kingdom. Glory be to Him who does not seize the earth’s inhabitants with various kinds of punishment (that they deserve). Glory be to the All-gracious and the All-merciful.

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ لِي فِي قَلْبِي نُوراً وَبَصَراً وَفَهْماً وَعِلْماً إِنَّكَ عَلى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

O God, place in my heart light, insight, understanding and knowledge. Surely, You have power over all things.

Source transliteration

Subḥāna man lā yaʿtadī ʿalā ahl mamlakatih. Subḥāna man lā yaʾkhudhu ahl al-arḍi bi-alwāni al-ʿadhāb. Subḥāna al-raʾūf al-raḥīm. Allāhumma ajʿal lī fī qalbī nūran wa baṣaran wa fahman wa ʿilman. Innaka ʿalā kulli shayʾin qadīr.

The Academy includes the full prayer for the end of each prayer and cites Mafātīh al-Jinān, translated by Ali Quli Qarai, 1:64. Duas for Students gives the final petition, beginning “O God, place in my heart”, on its own for qunūt. The Duas.org exam section reproduces the prayer from “Glory be”; its transliteration below the prayer starts there.

Sources · Duʿās for Developing a Good Memory, p. 3–4 · Duas for Students, p. 2 · Duas.org · Short dua from Mafateehul Jinaan · Duas at Exams

Recitation of the closing petition · Duas.org

After studying

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْتَوْدِعُكَ مَا قَرأتُ وَمَا حَفَظْتُ

Oh Allah! I entrust you with what I have read and I have studied.

فَرُضْهُ عَليّ عِنْدَ حَاجَتِي إِلَيهِ

Oh Allah! Bring it back to me when I am in need of it.

إِنّكَ عَلى مَا تَشَاءُ قَدِيرُ وَأَنْتَ حَسْبِي وَنِعْمَ الوَكِيل

Oh Allah! You do whatever you wish, you are my availer and protector and the best of aid

Source transliteration

Allahumma inni astaodeeka ma qara’tu wama hafaz-tu. Farudduhu ‘allaya inda hajati elahi. Innaka ‘ala ma-tasha’-u qadeer wa anta hasbeeya wa na’mal wakeel

The Arabic print has فرضه; the leaflet’s transliteration reads Farudduhu (“bring it back to me”).

Sources · Duas for Students, p. 2 · Duas.org · Dua After Studying

Recitation · Duas.org

When studying something difficult

اللَّهُمَّ لاَ سهل إِلّاَ مَا جَعَلّتَهٌ سَهْلاً وَأَنّتَ تَجّعَلَ الحَزَنَ إِذَا شِئتَ سَهْلاً

Oh Allah! Nothing is easy except what You have made easy. If You wish, You can make the difficult easy.

Source transliteration

Allâhumma lâ sahla illâ mâ ja‘altahu sahlâ wa anta taj‘alu al-hazana idhâ shi’ta sahlâ.

Sources · Duas for Students, p. 2 · Duas.org · Dua While Studying Something Difficult

Recitation · Duas.org

For concentration

صَلّىَ اللهُ عَلى مُحَمّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمّد

Blessings of God be upon Muhammad and his progeny.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ يَا مُذَكِرَ الخَيْرِ وَفَاعِلَهُ وَالآمِرَ بِهِ ذَكِرّنِي مَا أنسانيه الشّيطَان

O God, I ask you, the one who mentions goodness and actualizes it and commands it, remind me of that which the shaytan makes me forget.

Source transliteration

SALLA-L-LAAHU ALAA MUHAMMAD WA AAL-E MUHAMMAD. ALLAHUMMA INNI AS’ALUKA YAA MUDHAKKIRA-L KHAYR WA FAA’ILAHU WA-L-AAMIRA BIHI DHAKIR-NI MAA ANSAANI-HI-SHAYTAN.

Sources · Duas for Students, p. 3 · Duas.org · Dua For Concentration

Recitation · Duas.org

For victory and prosperity

يَا سَيِّدَ السَّادَاتِ يَا مُجِيبَ الدَّعَوَاتِ يَا رَافِعَ الدَّرَجَاتِ يَا وَلِيَّ الْحَسَنَاتِ يَا غَافِرَ الْخَطِيئَاتِ

O’ the chief of all chiefs! O’ the acceptor of prayers! O’ the elevator of ranks! O’ the master of virtues! O’ the forgiver of sins!

يَا مُعْطِيَ الْمَسْأَلاتِ يَا قَابِلَ التَّوْبَاتِ يَا سَامِعَ الأَصْوَاتِ يَا عَالِمَ الْخَفِيَّاتِ يَا دَافِعَ الْبَلِيَّاتِ

O’ the granter of requests! O’ the excerptor of penance! O’ the hearer of all voices! O’ the one who knows all mysteries! O’ the remover of calamities!

Source transliteration

Ya sayyedas-sada-te, ya mojeebad-da’vate, ya rafe’ad-darajate, ya vali-yal hasanate, ya feral-khati’ate, ya mo’ti-yal mas’alate, ya qabi-lat-tavbate, ya same’al-asvate, ya ‘alemal-khafiyate, ya dafe’al bali yate.

Sources · Duas for Students, p. 3 · Duas.org · Dua For Victory And Prosperity

Recitation · Duas.org

For an increase in knowledge

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful,

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَىٰ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

O Allah, bless Muhammad and his family

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ عِلْماً نَافِعاً وَعَمَلاً صَالِحاً وَحِفْظاً قَوِيّاً وَفَهْماً كَامِلاً وَعَقْلاً سَالِماً بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ

O Allah I ask You for beneficial knowledge and good deeds and a strong memory and a perfect understanding and a sound intellect by Your mercy, O the most Merciful of the merciful ones

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَىٰ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

O Allah, bless Muhammad and his family

Source transliteration

Bismillāhir rahmānir raheem – Allāhumma Swalli ‘alā Muhammadin wa aali Muhammad – Allāhumma inni asaluka ‘amalan nāfi‘ā – Wa ‘amalan swālihā – hifzan qawiyyā – wa fahman kāmilā – wa aqlan sālimā – birahmatika yā arhamar rāhimeen – Allāhumma Swalli ‘alā Muhammadin wa aali Muhammad.

The leaflet’s transliteration prints ‘amalan nāfi‘ā. Its Arabic reads ‘ilman nāfi‘an, “beneficial knowledge”.

Sources · Duas for Students, p. 3 · Duas.org · Dua for increase in knowledge

Recitation · Duas.org

A receptive ear · Qur’an 69:12

لِنَجْعَلَهَا لَكُمْ تَذْكِرَةً وَتَعِيَهَا أُذُنٌ وَاعِيَةٌ

That We might make it for you a reminder and that receptive ears might remember it.

Qur’anic recitation. The Academy recommends reciting this verse regularly.

Source · Du‘ās for Developing a Good Memory, p. 3

Sūrat al-Aʿlā · Qur’an 87

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the All-beneficent, the All-merciful.

سَبِّحِ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَىٰ

87:1 · Celebrate the Name of your Lord, the Most Exalted,

الَّذِي خَلَقَ فَسَوَّىٰ

87:2 · who created and proportioned,

وَالَّذِي قَدَّرَ فَهَدَىٰ

87:3 · who determined and guided,

وَالَّذِي أَخْرَجَ الْمَرْعَىٰ

87:4 · who brought forth the pasture

فَجَعَلَهُ غُثَاءً أَحْوَىٰ

87:5 · and then turned it into a black scum.

سَنُقْرِئُكَ فَلَا تَنْسَىٰ

87:6 · We shall have you recite [the Quran], then you will not forget [any of it]

Sūrat al-Aʿlā · Qur’an 87

إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ ۚ إِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ الْجَهْرَ وَمَا يَخْفَىٰ

87:7 · except what Allah may wish. Indeed, He knows the open and what is hidden.

وَنُيَسِّرُكَ لِلْيُسْرَىٰ

87:8 · And We shall ease you into facility.

فَذَكِّرْ إِنْ نَفَعَتِ الذِّكْرَىٰ

87:9 · So admonish, for admonition is indeed beneficial:

سَيَذَّكَّرُ مَنْ يَخْشَىٰ

87:10 · he who fears [God] will take admonition,

وَيَتَجَنَّبُهَا الْأَشْقَى

87:11 · and the most wretched will shun it

الَّذِي يَصْلَى النَّارَ الْكُبْرَىٰ

87:12 · —he who will enter the Great Fire,

ثُمَّ لَا يَمُوتُ فِيهَا وَلَا يَحْيَىٰ

87:13 · then he will neither live in it, nor die.

Sūrat al-Aʿlā · Qur’an 87

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَزَكَّىٰ

87:14 · ‘Felicitous is he who purifies himself,

وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّىٰ

87:15 · celebrates the Name of his Lord, and prays.

بَلْ تُؤْثِرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا

87:16 · But you prefer the life of this world,

وَالْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ

87:17 · while the Hereafter is better and more lasting.’

إِنَّ هَٰذَا لَفِي الصُّحُفِ الْأُولَىٰ

87:18 · This is indeed in the former scriptures,

صُحُفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَىٰ

87:19 · the scriptures of Abraham and Moses.

All nineteen verses. English translation by Ali Quli Qarai. The Academy recommends daily recitation, citing al-Shahīd al-Thānī, Desire of the Aspirant, p. 131.

Source · Duʿās for Developing a Good Memory, p. 4–5

A teacher’s prayer on the way to class

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَ آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

Allāhumma ṣalli ʿalā Muḥammad wa āli Muḥammad.

O Allah, send blessings upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ أَنْ يَضِلَّ أَوْ أَضَلَّ

Allāhumma innī aʿūdhu bika an yaḍilla aw aḍill.

O Allah, I seek refuge in You from going astray or leading others astray.

وَ أَزِلَّ أَوْ أَزَلَّ ، وَ أَظْلِمَ أَوْ أَظْلَمَ

Wa azill aw azal, wa aẓlim aw aẓlam.

And from slipping or causing others to slip, and from oppressing or being oppressed.

وَ أَجْهَلَ أَوْ يُجْهَلَ عَلَيَّ

Wa ajhal aw yujhalu ʿalayya.

And from acting ignorantly or being treated with ignorance.

عَزَّ جَارُكَ ، وَ تَقَدَّسَتْ أَسْمَاؤُكَ

ʿAzza jāruk, wa taqaddasat asmāʾuk.

Mighty is Your protection, and sacred are Your names.

A teacher’s prayer on the way to class

وَ جَلَّ ثَنَاؤُكَ، وَلَا إِلَهَ غَيْرُكَ

Wa jalla thanāʾuk, wa lā ilāha ghayruk.

And exalted is Your praise; there is no god but You.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ، تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ

Bismillāh, ḥasbī Allāh, tawakkaltu ʿalā Allāh.

In the name of Allah, Allah is sufficient for me, I place my trust in Allah.

وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ

Wa lā ḥawla wa lā quwwata illā billāhi al-ʿaliyyi al-ʿaẓīm.

And there is no power or strength except through Allah, the Most High, the Most Great.

اللَّهُمَّ ثَبِّتْ جَنَانِي وَ أَوْرِدِ الْحَقَّ عَلَى لِسَانِي

Allāhumma thabbit janānī wa awrid al-ḥaqqa ʿalā lisānī.

O Allah, make my heart firm and place truth upon my tongue.

From the page’s guidance for teachers, attributed there to the Prophet.

Source · Duas.org · Etiquette for Teachers

A prayer for students

O GOD please do students a favour and grace them to study with pleasure and effort.

The page attributes this prayer to Imam Mahdi and gives it in English.

Source · Duas.org · Hadith on Knowledge · Imam Mahdi

A blessing for those who learn and teach

May the Mercy of Allah be upon the servant who keeps alive our commandment.

The page quotes Imam al-Rida, who explains this as learning and teaching. It cites Ma’ani-ul-Akhbar, p. 180, and ‘Uyun-il-Akhbar-ir-Rida, vol. 1, p. 207, and supplies an English text.

Source · Duas.org · Traditions of Ahlulbayt · Imam al-Rida