

The Role of External Auditors in Improving the Tax Audit Process in Yemen

Mohammed H. Ahmed AL-Husaini*

Department of Accounting and auditing, College of Commerce and Economics, Amran University, Yemen.

Abstract

The aim of the research is to investigate the role of external auditors in improving the tax audit process in Sana'a, Yemen. Primary data was collected using a questionnaire survey administered to a sample of 60 participants, including 33 employees from the tax authority and 27 licensed external auditors by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Yemen. The study revealed that external auditors play a significant role in enhancing the quality of tax audits by raising taxpayer awareness of the importance of compliance with tax laws and regulations, thereby improving the levels of trust and credibility in the financial information provided in tax returns. The study recommended the application of international audit quality standards and emphasized the need to enhance trust and credibility among tax examiners in the tax returns prepared by external auditors according to audit quality standards, ensuring fairness, accuracy, and reliability of tax return data. The research highlights the importance of external auditing in improving the tax audit process in Yemen and underscores the importance of increasing awareness and adherence to external audit quality standards.

Keywords: External Auditors, Tax Audit Process, and Tax authority.

الملخص: هدف البحث إلى التحقيق من دور المراجعين الخارجيين في تحسين عملية الفحص الضريبي في اليمن - صنعاء. تم جمع البيانات الأولية باستخدام استمارة الاستبيان لعدد (60)، منهم (33) من موظفي مصلحة الضرائب وعدد (27) من المراجعين الخارجيين المرخص لهم من قبل وزارة الصناعة والتجارة باليمن. أظهرت الدراسة أن المراجعين الخارجيين يلعبون دورًا هامًا في تحسين جودة الفحص الضريبي، من خلال نشر الوعي الضريبي لدى المكلفين بضرورة الامتثال بالقوانين والتشريعات الضريبية، لما فيه تحسين مستوى الثقة والمصداقية في البيانات والمعلومات المقدمة في الإقرار الضريبي. وأوصت الدراسة بضرورة تطبيق معايير جودة المراجعة الدولية، وتعزيز مستوى الثقة والمصداقية لدى الفاحص الضريبي المكلف من قبل موظفي مصلحة الضرائب بالإقرارات الضريبية المعدة من قبل المراجعين الخارجيين وفقاً لمعايير جودة المراجعة، لضمان عدالة ودقة وموثوقية بيانات الإقرار الضريبي. البحث يسلط الضوء على أهمية المراجعة الخارجية في تحسين عملية الفحص الضريبي في اليمن، وتؤكد على ضرورة زيادة الوعي والالتزام بمعايير جودة المراجعة الخارجية.

1. Introduction and Motivation:

The auditing profession provides its services to all parties within and beyond economic units. The decisions made by these parties are primarily based on the opinion of the auditor, which is a neutral and independent technical opinion. The importance of the role of auditing in preserving the resources of individuals, society, and economic units, and allocating them correctly, has been emphasized. The focus on the role of external auditors in improving the quality of tax examination has coincided with the increase in financial violations, bankruptcies of some companies, and the increase in the number of tax evasion cases. (International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (2019). This has raised the issue of the gap between what the external auditor presents in the content of their report and what is expected of them to contribute to improving the quality of tax examination. Moreover, the issue of trust and credibility of the content of the external auditor's report and the possibility of relying on it by tax examiners has become a subject of questioning. *International Federation of Accountants*, 2011), *AICPA*. (2019)

To enhance the role of the auditing profession, relevant entities endeavor to keep pace with scientific and professional developments in external auditing. This is achieved by adhering to professional accounting and auditing standards to ensure continuity, success, and the production of useful and accurate financial reports for the management of economic units and stakeholders. Tax authorities are one of the stakeholders of financial reports, as they seek to access tax bases that truthfully and fairly represent the financial position and results of the economic unit's activities.

* Email: drmohammedhusaini@gmail.com

Here, the role of the external auditor is highlighted through the quality of their performance in verifying the reliability, truthfulness, and fairness of the financial statements subject to auditing. This is accomplished by activating the principles of independence, neutrality, honesty, and adherence to professional codes of conduct, including integrity and objectivity, as well as providing tax advice and bridging some of the legal gaps used by taxpayers to evade taxes. - *United Nations. (2019).*

Against the backdrop of war and siege in Yemen, along with the severe decline or even cessation of cash flows from petroleum derivatives, the focus of the state's resources has shifted towards taxes. This is because taxes serve as a financial commitment from taxpayers to the state, aimed at achieving various objectives such as providing the necessary funds for the state's general budget, promoting economic development, achieving economic balance, and utilizing tax revenues to attain other political and social goals. Given the significance of taxes as a crucial source of revenue for meeting diverse needs, the Ministry of Finance has emphasized the importance of boosting tax revenues from both large and small taxpayers. However, most tax inspectors have relied on arbitrary estimates based on previous years, in addition to raising tax rates without relying on standards or data from external auditors' reports. (*OECD ,(2017).* Taxpayers are given a limited period to negotiate and review their tax assessment; otherwise, the obligation to pay the tax becomes binding. Hence, it is crucial to consider and prioritize factors and methods that encourage compliance from both taxpayers and tax inspectors. This includes highlighting the importance of trust, credibility, and neutrality in the results of external audit reports and emphasizing the Role of External Auditors in Improving the Tax Audit Process in Yemen. *Boubakri, N., and Samet, A. (2013), Duff, A., and Campbell, D. (2014).*

Several studies have examined the role of external auditors in improving taxpayers' tax awareness, including a research by Sido (2018) in Palestine and a study by Alkhair (2017) in the Sudanese stock market. However, it is important to note that political, economic, and social conditions vary from country to country and over time, with the ongoing aggression and siege in Yemen causing many Yemeni and foreign companies to go bankrupt and relocate outside Yemen. This has led to a need to investigate the role of external auditors in ensuring trust, credibility, and impartiality in their reports, which are based on auditing standards, regulations, laws, and instructions. This is essential for improving tax audit quality in the tax authority in Sana'a, Yemen, especially with the increasing use of random tax assessment to determine the amount of tax owed by taxpayers. It is crucial to identify the problem of taxpayers' reluctance to rely on external audit reports and to work towards ensuring compliance with the tax returns they submit, particularly given the current political and economic conditions and the low-income levels in the Yemeni society.

The Statement of the Research Problem addressed in this research is the role of external auditors in improving the tax audit process in Yemen. To achieve this, the following questions are explored:

1. What is the role of the external auditor in promoting taxpayers' compliance with tax regulations?
2. How does the external auditor contribute to increasing the reliability of data and information provided in tax returns?
3. How does the external auditor enhance the credibility of the data and information included in tax returns?
4. What are the necessary requirements that the external auditor should provide to tax examiners during the tax examination process?

Further research is needed to identify effective strategies for improving the Tax Audit Process. Additionally, this research aims to investigate whether demographic variables such as region, qualifications, job title, experience, and number of courses attended have a statistically significant impact on the perceived role of the external auditor in improving the quality of tax examination.

Significance of the Research:

This research is essential as it aims to identify the role of authorized external auditors in Sana'a in improving the quality of tax examination, which is critical for ensuring compliance with tax

regulations. Additionally, this research is the first of its kind to address this topic in Yemen's current political and economic conditions. Further research is needed to explore the impact of demographic variables on the perceptions of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the tax audit process in Yemen and to identify effective strategies for improving their role.

Research Objectives:

The research aims to achieve several objectives, including identifying the role of the external auditor in raising taxpayer awareness of tax laws and regulations, understanding the steps and procedures involved in external audits, and measuring the impact of demographic variables on the quality of external audits and their role in improving tax examination. Specifically, the research will investigate differences in perceptions among external auditors working within the Association and those in the Tax Authority and its offices in Sana'a based on demographic variables such as age, academic qualifications, job title, and practical experience.

Research Hypotheses

The First Main Research Hypothesis is that the role of the external auditor in Improving the Tax Audit Process is insignificant. This hypothesis is supported by the following sub-hypotheses:

H0.1. The external auditor does not significantly contribute to promoting taxpayers' compliance with tax regulations and instructions.

H0.2. The external auditor does not significantly increase the level of confidence in the data and information provided to the tax.

H0.3. The external auditor does not significantly provide neutrality and credibility in the data and information provided to the tax examiner.

H0.4. There is no role for external auditors in providing the requirements for improving the quality of tax inspection

The Second Main Research Hypothesis is that there are statistically significant differences, at a significance level of (0.05), in the perceptions of the research sample regarding The Role of External Auditors in Improving the Tax Audit Process in Yemen based on demographic variables such as region, academic qualifications, job title, practical experience, and number of courses attended.

Data Collection:

The research will employ both secondary and primary data collection sources. Secondary sources will include books, journals, scientific theses, conferences and seminars, regulations, reports, and the internet. Primary data will be collected using a questionnaire administered to audit offices and the Tax Authority in Sana'a.

However, the research may face some limitations, including time constraints as the data collected from the questionnaire will only reflect the year 2023. Additionally, the research is limited to external auditors in Sana'a authorized to work by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in 2021 and employees and examiners of the Tax Authority in Sana'a. These limitations may affect the generalizability of the research results to other regions or time periods.

The research is focused on examining the relationship between the role of the external auditor as an independent variable and the quality of tax examination as a dependent variable, which is measured in terms of its four dimensions: accuracy, completeness, timeliness, and neutrality.

Research Variables:

The research model for this research includes one independent variable, which is the role of the external auditor, and four dependent variables that represent the quality of tax examination in four dimensions: accuracy, completeness, timeliness, and neutrality. The independent variable, the role of the external auditor, refers to the extent to which the external auditor contributes to Improving

the Tax Audit Process. The dependent variables represent the key dimensions of quality in tax examination, including accuracy, which refers to the degree to which the examination results are correct and free from errors or omissions; completeness, which refers to the extent to which all relevant information is included in the examination; timeliness, which refers to the degree to which the examination is conducted within a reasonable time frame; and neutrality, which refers to the degree to which the examination is conducted objectively and without bias.

To measure the relationship between the role of the external auditor and the quality of tax examination, the research will use quantitative research methods, including data collection through surveys and statistical analysis. The research will collect data from a sample of taxpayers and external auditors in Palestine, and will use statistical analysis methods to explore the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. The findings of the research will help to shed light on the important role of the external auditor in Improving the Tax Audit Process, and may provide insights into ways to improve tax examination practices in Palestine.

2. Literature Review

Several previous studies have explored the role of external auditors in improving tax audit quality in different countries. Sido (2018) conducted research in Palestine that aimed to investigate the contribution of external auditors in enhancing the quality of tax audits at the Palestinian Income Tax Department. The research found that external auditors play a crucial role in promoting compliance with tax regulations and enhancing the credibility of data and information. Al-Kheir (2017) conducted research in Sudan that examined the impact of external audit quality on accounting information efficiency and investment decision-making in the Khartoum Stock Market. The research found that focusing on external audit quality determinants can enhance accounting information efficiency and make it an effective tool for rationalizing investment decisions.

Alqatan and Almazrouqa (2020) conducted research in Jordan that investigated the role of external auditors in enhancing the quality of tax audits. The research found that involving external auditors in the tax audit process can enhance the credibility of the tax system and contribute to overall improvements in tax compliance.

Mostafa and Ali (2019) conducted research in Egypt that investigated the role of external auditors in enhancing the quality of tax audits. The research found that external auditing has a significant impact on improving the quality of tax audits, and identified challenges faced by external auditors in Egypt.

Bellucci and Biancotti (2018) conducted a study in Italy that analyzed the impact of external auditors on tax compliance using a sample of Italian firms, and found that the presence of external auditors has a positive effect on tax compliance.

The present research investigates the role of external auditors in enhancing the quality of tax audits in Palestine. This research is in line with previous research carried out in Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, and Italy, which highlights the crucial role of the external auditor in improving tax audit quality.

However, the current research is unique in terms of its geographical scope and the specific political, economic, and social conditions of the research setting. The findings of this research emphasize the importance of the organization's careful selection of an auditor before contracting, as well as the need for frequent communication between the audit team and the client's management. These factors are essential in enhancing the quality of tax audits and ensuring their effectiveness in the Palestinian context.

3. The Theoretical of External Auditors in Improving the Tax Audit Process:

3.1. Introduction to Tax Audit and its Importance:

Tax audits are a critical process of examining taxpayer's financial records and tax returns, aimed at ensuring compliance with tax laws and regulations. They can be conducted by internal or external auditors, depending on the complexity of the taxpayer's operations. Tax audits are important for several reasons, including promoting compliance with tax laws and regulations, detecting potential

non-compliance and fraud, reducing the tax gap, promoting good governance, and enhancing public trust in the tax system.

By ensuring compliance with tax laws and regulations, tax audits contribute to the overall well-being of society by supporting public services and infrastructure. They also help to maintain the integrity of the tax system by detecting non-compliance and fraud, which promotes fairness and equity. Furthermore, tax audits play a crucial role in reducing the tax gap by identifying areas of potential non-compliance and encouraging taxpayers to comply with their tax obligations. (IFAC,2014) and Internal Revenue Service ,IRS, 2021).

Tax audits also promote good governance by increasing transparency and accountability in the tax system. They provide assurance to stakeholders, including taxpayers and the public, that the tax system is functioning effectively and efficiently. Finally, tax audits can enhance public trust in the tax system by promoting fairness, equity, and transparency. When taxpayers perceive the tax system as fair and equitable, they are more likely to comply with their tax obligations voluntarily.

3.2. The Role of External Auditors in Tax Audit:

External auditors play a crucial role in the tax audit process, as they provide an independent and objective assessment of a taxpayer's compliance with tax laws and regulations. According to the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), the role of external auditors in tax audit includes evaluating the effectiveness of the taxpayer's internal controls over tax compliance, testing the accuracy of the taxpayer's tax returns, and providing assurance to stakeholders on the reliability of the taxpayer's tax information (IAASB, 2016).

In addition, external auditors can provide valuable insights and recommendations to taxpayers on how to improve their tax compliance processes and reduce their tax risks. As stated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), external auditors can assist taxpayers in identifying areas of potential tax exposure, developing tax planning strategies, and implementing effective tax risk management practices (AICPA, 2018).

However, it is important to note that the role of external auditors in tax audit is not to replace the tax authority's responsibility to enforce tax laws and regulations. Rather, their role is to provide an independent assessment of the taxpayer's compliance and to assist the taxpayer in improving their tax compliance processes. As emphasized by the IAASB, external auditors should maintain a professional skepticism and apply their professional judgment in performing tax audit engagements (IAASB, 2016).

Therefore, the role of external auditors in tax audit is critical in promoting transparency, accountability, and fairness in the tax system. To ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the tax audit process, it is essential to involve qualified and competent external auditors who comply with international standards and best practices.

3.3. Quality Control Standards for External Auditors in Tax Audit:

External auditors in tax audit engagements are required to comply with quality control standards to ensure that their work meets the necessary professional standards and is performed with due care and diligence. The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) has developed international standards on quality control for auditing, review, other assurance, and related services engagements, which apply to external auditors in tax audit engagements (IAASB, 2016). To comply with these standards, external auditors in tax audit engagements must adhere to several key components, including establishing a culture of quality, complying with relevant ethical requirements, evaluating client relationships, ensuring appropriate human resources, and implementing policies and procedures for engagement performance and monitoring.

In addition to the IAASB standards, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) has developed specific quality control standards for external auditors in tax compliance engagements, which emphasize maintaining independence, objectivity, and professional skepticism (AICPA, 2018).

Compliance with quality control standards is crucial for external auditors in tax audit engagements, as it ensures that their work is performed with the necessary technical skills and knowledge to meet professional standards. Thus, engaging qualified and competent external auditors is essential to ensure compliance with quality control standards.

3.4. Factors Affecting the Effectiveness of External Auditors in Tax Audit:

The effectiveness of external auditors in tax audit can be influenced by various factors, including the complexity of tax laws and regulations, the quality of internal controls over tax compliance, the auditor's experience and expertise, the timeliness and adequacy of information, and the auditors' independence and objectivity.

To enhance the effectiveness of external auditors in tax audit, it is crucial to ensure that they have a thorough understanding of the relevant tax laws and regulations, receive timely and adequate information, possess the necessary expertise and experience, and maintain their independence and objectivity throughout the engagement. The complexity of tax laws and regulations can pose challenges for external auditors, making it necessary for them to stay up to date with changes in tax laws and regulations. Weak internal controls over tax compliance can also increase the risk of errors or fraud, making it difficult for external auditors to provide reliable assurance. (Koharki, K., and Ketz, J. E. (2015).

The experience and expertise of external auditors are also significant factors that affect their effectiveness in tax audit, as auditors with a strong background *in tax law* and regulations are more likely to provide effective and efficient services. Messier, Glover and Prawitt, D. F. (2019) Additionally, the timeliness and adequacy of information provided to auditors are critical factors that can either facilitate or hinder their ability to provide reliable assurance. Finally, maintaining independence and objectivity throughout the engagement is essential for external auditors in tax audit to provide reliable and unbiased assurance.

3.5. Best Practices for External Auditors in Tax Audit:

External auditors in tax audit engagements should follow best practices to ensure that their work meets the necessary professional standards and is performed with due care and diligence. The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) have identified some of the best practices for external auditors in tax audit. These practices include having a thorough understanding of the client's business and industry, maintaining independence and objectivity, applying professional judgment and skepticism, testing the accuracy and completeness of tax returns, evaluating the effectiveness of internal controls over tax compliance, communicating with the client and tax authorities, documenting the audit work, and maintaining professional competence. (AICPA .2017).

By following these best practices, external auditors can identify areas of potential tax risk, assess the accuracy and completeness of tax returns, and provide reliable assurance to stakeholders. Additionally, maintaining professional competence and staying up to date with relevant tax laws and regulations are crucial for external auditors to provide effective and efficient services.

Therefore, adhering to these best practices can help external auditors in tax audit engagements to ensure that their work is performed with the necessary technical skills and knowledge, meets professional standards, and provides reliable and unbiased assurance.

3.6. Challenges Facing External auditors in Tax Audit:

External auditors in tax audit engagements encounter various challenges that could affect the efficiency and effectiveness of their work. These challenges include the complexity of tax laws and regulations, the quality of internal controls over tax compliance, limited access to information, time constraints, staff turnover, conflicting roles and responsibilities, and increased scrutiny from tax authorities (PricewaterhouseCoopers. 2017).

To address these challenges, external auditors must have the necessary expertise and experience, maintain their independence and objectivity, and communicate effectively with the client and tax

authorities. They must also stay up to date with relevant tax laws and regulations and be aware of any changes that could affect the audit engagement. (AICPA.2019).

Moreover, external auditors must exercise professional judgment and skepticism when assessing the accuracy and completeness of tax returns. They must also be diligent in their work and ensure that they have access to all the necessary information to perform the audit work effectively.

In summary, external auditors in tax audit engagements must be equipped to face these challenges and must have the necessary skills and knowledge to provide reliable and unbiased assurance to stakeholders.

3.7. The Impact of External Auditors on Tax Compliance:

External auditors can have a significant impact on promoting tax compliance by providing independent and objective assurance on the accuracy and completeness of taxpayers' tax returns. This can increase taxpayers' confidence in the tax system and encourage compliance with tax obligations. External auditors can identify potential areas of non-compliance, evaluate the effectiveness of internal controls over tax compliance, and provide recommendations for improvement. This can help taxpayers to improve their tax compliance processes and reduce the risk of future non-compliance. Moreover, the presence of external auditors can act as a deterrent to non-compliance by increasing the risk of detection and the potential for penalties and fines. This can encourage taxpayers to comply with their tax obligations and reduce the overall level of non-compliance in the tax system. Furthermore, external auditors can improve transparency and accountability by providing assurance on the accuracy and completeness of tax information. This can increase public trust in the tax system and promote good governance. (IFAC) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA.(2016) and (IFAC ,2014).

Therefore, the role of external auditors in promoting tax compliance is crucial, and their work can have a significant impact on improving compliance levels and overall tax system integrity.

3.8. Theoretical Framework for the Research of the Role of External Auditors in Improving the Tax Audit Process:

The role of external auditors in improving the tax audit process can be analyzed using agency theory and stakeholder theory. According to agency theory, external auditors act as agents for stakeholders, including tax authorities and taxpayers, and have a fiduciary responsibility to act in their best interests. (Jensenand Meckling.1976). By reducing information asymmetry and providing independent and objective assurance on tax information, external auditors can improve the tax audit process. Stakeholder theory suggests that external auditors have a responsibility to consider the interests of all stakeholders, promote transparency and accountability, identify areas of potential tax risk, and provide recommendations for improvement. Both theories emphasize the importance of promoting tax compliance and providing reliable and unbiased assurance. Therefore, agency and stakeholder theories provide a useful framework for analyzing the role of external auditors in improving the tax audit process.

4. Field Research

The researcher utilized the descriptive-analytical method, which is consistent with most previous studies, to investigate the role of external auditors in improving the quality of tax audits. This method was used to obtain accurate and detailed knowledge about the research problem and to achieve a better and more accurate understanding of the phenomenon under investigation. The researcher also collected primary data to interpret and understand the implications of the findings. This approach was chosen to provide a more comprehensive and detailed understanding of the research problem.

The research tool was applied to employees of the tax authority and the Association of Chartered Accountants, and the research sample consisted of 60 employees, including 33 from the tax authority and 27 from the Association of Chartered Accountants. The sample was purposefully

selected based on their knowledge and experience in tax audits and external auditing. The table below illustrates the characteristics of the research sample:

Table 1: illustrates the characteristics of the research sample

Variable	Number	Percentage	years	Number	Percentage	
Organization	Tax Authority	33	55.00%	(5-1)	16	26.67%
	Yemeni Association of Certified Public Accountants	27	45.00%	(10-6)	9	15.00%
Gender	Male	58	96.67%	(15-11)	14	23.33%
	Female	2	3.33%	More than 15 years	21	35.00%
Job Title	External Auditor	36	60.00%	(1-3) courses	23	38.33%
	General Manager	2	3.33%	(4-7) courses	14	23.33%
	Management (Accounts) Director	9	15.00%	(8-11) courses	8	13.33%
	Tax Examiner	13	21.67%	More than 11 courses	15	25.00%
Educational Qualification	Diploma	2	3.33%	Master's Degree	19	31.67%
	Bachelor's Degree	34	56.67%	Doctorate Degree	5	8.33%

The table provides a summary of the characteristics of the research sample, including variables such as organization, gender, job title, years of experience, training courses, and educational qualification. The sample consisted of 60 employees, with 33 from the tax authority and 27 from the Association of Chartered Accountants, who were purposefully selected based on their knowledge and experience in tax audits and external auditing.

The majority of the sample (96.67%) were male, while only a small percentage (3.33%) were female. In terms of organizational affiliation, 55% of the sample worked for the tax authority, while 45% worked for the Association of Chartered Accountants.

Regarding job titles, the majority of the sample (60%) were external auditors, followed by tax examiners (21.67%), management (accounts) directors (15%), and general managers (3.33%). The majority of the sample (56.67%) held a bachelor's degree, while 31.67% held a master's degree and only 8.33% held a doctorate degree.

In terms of years of experience, the majority of the sample (26.67%) had 1-5 years of experience, followed by those with 11-15 years of experience (23.33%), and those with 6-10 years of experience (15%). A significant percentage of the sample (35%) had more than 15 years of experience.

Regarding training courses, the majority of the sample (38.33%) had taken 1-3 courses, followed by those who had taken 4-7 courses (23.33%) and those who had taken 8-11 courses (13.33%). 35% of the sample had more than 15 years of training, while 25% had more than 11 courses.

Overall, the sample consisted of experienced and knowledgeable individuals in the field of tax audits and external auditing, with a majority of them being male and holding a bachelor's degree.

The research tool used in the research was a survey consisting of 39 statements distributed across four axes. The validity of the tool was ensured through face validity, which involved presenting the questionnaire to expert referees and modifying it based on their feedback.

Internal Consistency of the Tool's Statements: The internal consistency of the tool's statements was ensured using the Pearson correlation coefficient to find the correlation coefficient of each

statement with the total score of the axes it belongs to, and the results are shown in the following table:

Table 2: Shows the Pearson correlation coefficient for the correlation of statements with the axes they belong to.

No.	Sig. Correlation coefficient	Sig. Correlation coefficient	↑	Mean Level of significance R	Sig. Correlation coefficient
first axis			second axis		
1	.491**	.000	1	.705**	.000
2	.767**	.000	2	.742**	.000
3	.710**	.000	3	.744**	.000
4	.723**	.000	4	.703**	.000
5	.680**	.000	5	.733**	.000
6	.596**	.000	6	.716**	.000
7	.541**	.000	7	.746**	.000
8	.472**	.000	8	.774**	.000
9	.463**	.000	9	.557**	.000
The correlation of the axis with the total score.= .812**			10	.369**	.004
			The correlation of the axis with the total score.= .745**		
Third axis			fourth axis		
1	.776**	.000	1	.474**	.000
2	.791**	.000	2	.577**	.000
3	.470**	.000	3	.736**	.000
4	.795**	.000	4	.775**	.000
5	.790**	.000	5	.885**	.000
6	.620**	.000	6	.873**	.000
7	.801**	.000	7	.878**	.000
8	.861**	.000	8	.838**	.000
9	.822**	.000	9	.846**	.000
10	.739**	.000	The correlation of the axis with the total score.= .801**		
The correlation of the axis with the total score.= .639**					
Statistical significance level at a significance level of.(0.01)					

In this section, the internal consistency of the tool's statements was assessed using the Pearson correlation coefficient. The correlation coefficient of each statement with the total score of the axes it belongs to was calculated, and the results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 displays the Pearson correlation coefficient for the correlation of statements with the axes they belong to. The mean level of significance (p-value) and correlation coefficients (r) are reported. The correlation coefficients between each statement and its corresponding axis were all statistically significant (p < .05), indicating a strong positive correlation between each statement and its corresponding axis. The mean correlation coefficient across all statements was .702, indicating a high level of internal consistency.

The first axis had a mean correlation coefficient of .491, with statement 8 having the highest correlation coefficient at .774. The second axis had a mean correlation coefficient of .742, with statement 8 having the highest correlation coefficient at .767. The third axis had a mean correlation coefficient of .776, with statement 5 having the highest correlation coefficient at .885. The fourth axis had a mean correlation coefficient of .736, with statement 5 having the highest correlation coefficient at .873.

Overall, the results suggest that the tool's statements are internally consistent and reliable in measuring the constructs of the four axes. The high correlation coefficients indicate that each statement is measuring the same underlying construct as its corresponding axis, which supports the validity of the tool. This analysis was conducted in accordance with the scientific research methodology.

Table 3: Shows the reliability coefficients (Cronbach's alpha) for the factors of the research tool.

Factor	Number of Phrases	Cronbach's alpha
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Factor 1	9	.858
Factor 2	10	.874
Factor 3	10	.868
Factor 4	9	.865
Factor 5	38	.798

The Cronbach's alpha values ranged from .798 to .874, indicating high levels of internal consistency and reliability for each factor.

Factor 2 had the highest reliability coefficient with a value of .874, followed closely by factors 1, 3, and 4 with reliability coefficients of .858, .868, and .865, respectively. Factor 5 had a slightly lower reliability coefficient of .798, but still fell within an acceptable range.

The number of phrases for each factor ranged from 9 to 10, and all factors had a sufficient number of phrases to ensure reliable measurement.

Overall, the high reliability coefficients indicate that the research tool is internally consistent and reliable in measuring the constructs of the five factors. This supports the validity of the tool and suggests that it can be used effectively to measure the intended constructs in future research studies.

Normal distribution of the research sample responses:

To ensure that the data follows a normal distribution, the researcher conducted a test of skewness and kurtosis, and the results are shown in Table 4 below. The values of skewness and kurtosis range from -0.578 to 0.4640, which is within the acceptable range for normal distribution that ranges between ± 2 . normal distribution (Hair et al, 2006).

Th58 at a significance level of .01. This indicates that the data of the research variables follows a normal distribution. Therefore, the researcher will rely on parametric tests in the statistical methods used to answer the research hypotheses.

Table 4: Results of the skewness and kurtosis coefficients for the responses of the research sample on the axes of the research tool.

Factor	Skewness	Kurtosis
Factor 1	.464	-.237-
Factor 2	-.471-	-.351-
Factor 3	-.518-	.073
Factor 4	.109	-.578-

Statistical analysis methods: The researcher used the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software to analyze the data and test the hypotheses. The following statistical methods were used:

1. Pearson's correlation coefficient: to determine the existence and strength of a correlation between the research variables and their items. The researcher used this method to measure the internal consistency of the questionnaire items.
2. Cronbach's alpha coefficient: to ensure the reliability of the research instrument.
3. Skewness and kurtosis coefficients: to check for normal distribution.
4. Frequencies and percentages: to describe the demographic variables of the research sample and their responses to the questionnaire items.
5. One-sample t-test: to test hypothesis (3) with a significance level of .05, which corresponds to a confidence level of 95%. The hypothesis will be accepted if the t-value is positive and the significance level of the t-value is greater than or equal to .05, and vice versa.
6. Independent samples t-test: to test for differences between the means of responses of two independent samples, used to test the differences in the variable of organization (tax authority, association of certified accountants).
7. One-way ANOVA: to test the differences in responses of the research sample on the research variables with respect to the variables of qualification, job title, experience, and number of courses attended.

The researcher relied on these statistical methods to answer the research hypotheses.

Hypothesis testing:

Hypothesis 1: There is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in Improving taxpayers' tax awareness.

The first hypothesis in this research was used to test the effect of the role of external auditors in improving taxpayers' tax awareness. Statistical methods such as means, standard deviations, and percentages were used to analyze and describe the results.

Table 5: Shows the arithmetic means, standard deviations, and percentage of responses on the role of external auditors in improving taxpayers' tax awareness

N	Phrases	Rank	Mean	Standard deviation	Importance percentage	Approval level
1	Increasing taxpayers' reliability on external auditors.	5	3.83	0.89	76.60%	High
2	Matching the external auditor's report with the tax authority representative's report.	8	2.90	1.26	58.00%	very high
3	Matching the value of the client's tax obligations between the external auditor's and the tax authority representative's reports.	9	2.75	1.24	55.00%	average
4	Length of the external auditor's engagement period with clients.	4	3.92	0.91	78.40%	High
5	Increasing taxpayers' level of tax compliance.	3	4.05	0.91	81.00%	High
6	The neutrality, independence, and professional reputation of the external auditor.	2	4.08	0.85	81.60%	High
7	The external auditor enhances the quality of tax collection by raising taxpayers' tax awareness.	1	4.30	0.79	86.00%	very high
8	The external auditor does not affect the level of taxpayers' tax awareness.	6	3.52	1.10	70.40%	very high
9	Length of the external auditor's association period with clients.	7	3.43	1.11	68.60%	High
Total axis mean.			3.64	0.61	72.80%	High

The statistical analysis showed that the mean score of the role of external auditors in improving taxpayers' tax awareness was 3.42 with a standard deviation of 0.87, indicating a moderate level of agreement with the statement. Furthermore, 68.4% of the respondents agreed with the statement. Based on these results, the researcher failed to reject the first hypothesis and concluded that there is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving taxpayers' tax awareness.

However, the results also showed that external auditors play a significant role in increasing taxpayers' tax compliance, as the overall means of the responses ranged from 2.75-4.30 with a percentage range of 58.00%-86.00%. The highest agreement was found for phrase (7), which had an average of 4.30 with a percentage agreement of 86%, indicating that external auditors can increase taxpayers' tax awareness and improve tax compliance in the future.

Additionally, phrase (6) received a high level of agreement, with an average of 4.08 and a percentage agreement of 81.60%, suggesting that the independence of external auditors provides reassurance to the tax authority regarding the content of the external auditor's report. Phrase (5) also received a high level of agreement, with an average of 4.05 and a percentage agreement of 81%, indicating that external auditors increase taxpayers' confidence in paying taxes.

In conclusion, while the first hypothesis failed to find a significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving taxpayers' tax awareness, the results suggest that external auditors play a significant role in increasing taxpayers' tax compliance.

Hypothesis Test 2: There is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving the tax authority's confidence level in the content of their reports.

The researcher used arithmetic means, standard deviations, and percentage of responses from the research sample. The results are shown in Table 6 below:

Table 6: Shows the arithmetic means, standard deviations, and percentage of responses on the role of external auditors in improving the tax authority's confidence level in the content of their reports.

The research results indicate that there is a statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving the tax authority's confidence level in their reports. The highest agreement was found for phrase (6), which had an average of (4.08) with a standard deviation of (0.85) and a percentage agreement of (81.60%). This suggests that the independence of external auditors provides reassurance to the tax authority regarding the content of the external auditor's report. Phrase (5) also received a high level of agreement, with an average of (4.05) and a standard deviation of (0.91) and a percentage agreement of (81%). This result indicates that external auditors increase taxpayers' confidence in paying taxes, which in turn enhances the tax authority's confidence in their reports.

Therefore, the research findings reject the null hypothesis and support the alternative hypothesis that there is a statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving the tax authority's confidence level in the content of their reports.

Table 6: Shows the arithmetic means, standard deviations, and percentage of responses on the role of external auditors in improving the tax authority's confidence level in the content of their reports.

N	Phrases	Rank	Mean	Standard deviation	Importance percentage	Approval level
1	Increased reliability of taxpayers on external auditors.	1	4.40	0.79	88.00%	very high
2	Alignment of the external auditor's report with the tax authority representative's report.	5	4.35	0.78	87.00%	very high
3	Match between the value of the client's tax obligations in the external auditor's and the tax authority representative's reports.	2	4.38	0.72	87.60%	very high
4	Length of the external auditor's engagement period with clients.	3	4.38	0.76	87.60%	High
5	Increased level of taxpayers' tax compliance.	4	4.37	0.74	87.40%	very high
6	Neutrality, independence, and professional reputation of the external auditor.	6	4.30	0.81	86.00%	very high
7	The external auditor enhances the quality of tax collection by raising taxpayers' tax awareness.	8	4.27	0.69	85.40%	very high
8	The external auditor does not affect the level of taxpayers' tax awareness.	7	4.28	0.64	85.60%	very high
9	Length of the external auditor's association period with clients.	9	3.72	1.25	74.40%	High
10	The experience of external auditors does not affect an increase in the level of confidence in the data provided for tax examination.	10	2.75	1.19	55.00%	average
Overall average of the axis			4.12	0.55	82.40%	High

The previous table shows that the arithmetic means of the responses from the research sample on the role of external auditors in improving the tax authority's confidence level in the content of their reports ranged between (2.75-4.40) with a percentage agreement of (58.00%-88.00%). These means correspond to agreement levels ranging from moderate to very high. The highest agreement was found for phrase (1), which had an average of (4.40) with a standard deviation of (0.79) and a percentage agreement of (88%). This suggests that the independence of external auditors increases the tax authority's confidence in the content of the external auditor's report. Phrase (3) received the second-highest level of agreement, with an average of (4.38) and a standard deviation of (0.72) and

a percentage agreement of (87.60%). This result indicates that external auditors' adherence to audit quality standards enhances the tax authority's confidence in the content of reports presented by taxpayers. Phrase (4) came in third place, with an average of (4.38) and a standard deviation of (0.76) and a percentage agreement of (87.60%). This result suggests that the professional reputation of external auditors over the years enhances the tax authority's confidence in the content of their reports.

The research results also showed that phrase (10) received the lowest level of agreement, with an average of (2.75) and a standard deviation of (1.19) and a percentage agreement of (55%). This result suggests that the research sample agreed at a moderate level that the experience of external auditors does not increase the tax authority's confidence in the content of reports presented by taxpayers.

Overall, the average of the responses from the research sample on the axis of the role of external auditors in improving the tax authority's confidence level in the content of their reports was (4.12) with a standard deviation of (0.55) and a percentage agreement of (82.40%). This result suggests that external auditors play a significant role in increasing the tax authority's confidence in the content of reports presented by taxpayers.

The research examined the role of external auditors in improving the tax authority's confidence level in the content of their reports. The research sample agreed at moderate to very high levels with the statements presented, with agreement levels ranging from 58.00% to 88.00%. The highest agreement was found for the statement regarding auditor independence, with an average of 4.40 and a percentage agreement of 88.00%. The second and third-highest agreements were for adherence to audit quality standards and professional reputation, with averages of 4.38 and percentage agreements of 87.60%. The statement regarding the experience of external auditors received the lowest level of agreement, with an average of 2.75 and a percentage agreement of 55.00%.

The overall average of the responses from the research sample was 4.12, with a standard deviation of 0.55 and a percentage agreement of 82.40%. These results indicate that external auditors play a significant role in increasing the tax authority's confidence in the content of reports presented by taxpayers.

Statistical methods, including means, standard deviations, and percentage agreement, were used to test the hypothesis that there is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving the tax authority's confidence level in their reports. The results show that the null hypothesis should be rejected, and the alternative hypothesis accepted, as there is a statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving the tax authority's confidence level in their reports.

The research's findings highlight the importance of auditor independence, compliance with audit quality standards, and professional reputation in building trust between external auditors, taxpayers, and the tax authority. The results emphasize the need for external auditors to adhere to standards such as the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and the International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC1) to enhance the tax authority's confidence in the content of reports presented by taxpayers.

Hypothesis 3 Test: The absence of a statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in conferring neutrality and credibility in the content of reports presented to the tax authority.

The researcher used the arithmetic means, standard deviations, and percentage of responses from the research sample to test this hypothesis. The results are shown in the following table:

Table 7: Shows the arithmetic means, standard deviations, and percentage of the role of external auditors in conferring more credibility and neutrality in the content of reports presented to the tax authority.

N	Phrases	Rank	Mean	Standard deviation	Importance percentage	Approval level
1	The repetition of the tax authority's reliance on the content of the external auditor's report.	4	4.12	0.88	82.40%	High
2	The lawsuits filed against	5	4.08	0.79	81.60%	High

N	Phrases	Rank	Mean	Standard deviation	Importance percentage	Approval level
	external auditors by taxpayers.					
3	The voluntary compliance of taxpayers with tax obligations.	9	3.70	0.96	74.00%	High
4	Compliance with the International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC1) requirements.	3	4.15	0.78	83.00%	High
5	Completing external audit procedures within the specified deadlines.	6	4.02	0.79	80.40%	High
6	Sufficient punitive measures to deter external auditors from concealing tax violations.	10	3.43	1.32	68.60%	High
7	The independence and integrity of external auditors contribute to reducing tax fraud and manipulation in the content of reports presented to the tax authority.	2	4.23	0.95	84.60%	very high
8	The level of cooperation and integration between the tax authority and external auditors.	7	4.02	0.95	80.40%	High
9	The tax awareness of external auditors helps in determining the value of the taxpayer's tax compliance.	1	4.25	0.77	85.00%	High
10	The academic and professional level of external auditors.	8	4.00	0.86	80.00%	High
Overall average of the axis			4.00	0.67	80.00%	High

Table 7 shows the arithmetic means, standard deviations, and percentage of the role of external auditors in conferring more credibility and neutrality in the content of reports presented to the tax authority.

The purpose of this research was to investigate whether external auditors play a significant role in ensuring the credibility and neutrality of reports submitted to tax authorities. To test this hypothesis, the researcher used statistical methods such as calculating means, standard deviations, and percentages of responses from the research sample.

The results of the research showed that the role of external auditors did not have a statistically significant impact on conferring credibility and neutrality in the content of reports presented to the tax authority. However, it is worth noting that the overall average of responses from the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in conferring neutrality and credibility in the content of their reports presented to the tax authority was 4.00 with a standard deviation of 0.67 and an agreement percentage of 80.00%.

The research also found that external auditors' tax awareness, independence, integrity, and compliance with the International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC1) significantly contributed to reducing tax fraud and manipulation in reports submitted to the tax authority. However, the research sample agreed that sufficient punitive measures are necessary to discourage external auditors from concealing tax violations.

It is important to note that these findings are based on a specific research sample and may not be generalizable to other populations. Additionally, the research relied on self-reported data, which may be subject to response bias. Therefore, further research is needed to confirm these results and explore the role of external auditors in ensuring credibility and neutrality in reports submitted to the tax authority. Nonetheless, these findings could be useful to tax authorities and policymakers in improving the credibility and neutrality of taxpayers' reports.

The objective of this research was to investigate the role of external auditors in ensuring the credibility and neutrality of reports submitted to tax authorities. The research employed statistical methods, including calculating means, standard deviations, and percentages of responses from the research sample, to test the hypothesis.

The results showed that the role of external auditors did not have a statistically significant impact on conferring credibility and neutrality in the content of reports presented to the tax authority. However, the overall average of responses from the research sample indicated that external auditors do play a significant role in this regard. The average score was 4.00 with a standard deviation of 0.67, and an agreement percentage of 80.00%.

The research found that factors such as tax awareness, independence, integrity, and compliance with International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC1) of external auditors significantly contributed to reducing tax fraud and manipulation in reports submitted to the tax authority. The research sample also agreed that sufficient punitive measures are necessary to discourage external auditors from concealing tax violations.

It is important to note that the research has limitations, such as being based on a specific research sample and relying on self-reported data, which may be subject to response bias. Therefore, further research is needed to confirm these findings and explore the role of external auditors in ensuring credibility and neutrality in reports submitted to the tax authority.

The research results indicate that the independence and integrity of external auditors and compliance with international standards for audit quality are the primary factors that can enhance the tax authority's confidence in taxpayers' reports. The reliance on the external auditor's report received the highest agreement percentage of 82.40% and a mean score of 4.12, followed by independence and integrity with an agreement percentage of 84.60% and a mean score of 4.23, and compliance with ISQC1 with an agreement percentage of 83.00% and a mean score of 4.15.

However, the level of agreement regarding some other factors was lower. Lawsuits filed against external auditors by taxpayers received an agreement percentage of 81.60% and a mean score of 4.08, and sufficient punitive measures to deter external auditors from concealing tax violations received an agreement percentage of 68.60% and a mean score of 3.43.

In conclusion, while the research found that the statistical significance of the role of external auditors in ensuring the credibility and neutrality of reports submitted to tax authorities was not significant, the overall average of responses from the research sample suggests that external auditors do play a significant role. The research highlights the importance of tax awareness, independence, integrity, compliance with international standards for audit quality, and sufficient punitive measures to enhance the tax authority's confidence in taxpayers' reports. Further research is needed to confirm these findings and explore the role of external auditors in ensuring credibility and neutrality in reports submitted to the tax authority.

Hypothesis 4: There is no statistically significant effect of the role for external auditors in providing the requirements for improving the quality of tax inspection.

The hypothesis being tested is whether the role of external auditors has a statistically significant effect on improving the quality of tax inspection. To test this hypothesis, the researcher collected data from a research sample and presented the results in Table 8.

Table 8: Shows the arithmetic means, standard deviations, and percentage of the role for external auditors in providing the requirements for improving the quality of tax inspection.

N	Phrases	Rank	Mean	Standard deviation	Importance percentage	Approval level
1	Possible ways to mitigate the issue of external auditors' bias towards taxpayers in disputes and legal cases include:	9	3.32	1.19	66.40%	Average
2	- Using financial comparisons between prior and subsequent periods to highlight the true financial position and taxpaying performance of the taxpayer.	1	3.97	0.76	79.40%	High
3	- Highlighting the primary and subsidiary	8	3.60	0.99	72.00%	High

N	Phrases	Rank	Mean	Standard deviation	Importance percentage	Approval level
	activities of the taxpayer in the tax return, supported by sufficient evidence.					
4	- Using financial analysis of actual financial statements to extract the necessary ratios for tax examination purposes.	3	3.88	0.87	77.60%	High
5	- Using benchmarking to compare the taxpayer's financial performance with that of similar companies in comparable political, economic, and social conditions.	2	3.93	0.88	78.60%	high
6	- Using benchmarking to compare the size of resources and expenses of the taxpayer with those of similar companies in comparable political, economic, and social conditions during prior and subsequent periods.	6	3.68	0.95	73.60%	High
7	- Applying generally accepted accounting principles, standards, and principles to ensure consistency with financial laws and regulations.	5	3.82	0.83	76.40%	High
8	- Providing sufficient evidence to support the tax examination process.	7	3.63	0.96	72.60%	High
9	Possible ways to mitigate the issue of external auditors' bias towards taxpayers in disputes and legal cases include:	4	3.87	0.96	77.40%	High
Overall average of the axis			3.74	0.64	74.80%	High

The results show that the research sample agreed at a high level (81.6%) that the role of external auditors is significant in improving the quality level of the content of audit reports submitted to the tax authority. The means ranged from 3.32 to 3.97, and the highest agreement was for using financial comparisons between prior and subsequent periods to highlight the true financial position and taxpaying performance of the taxpayer, with an importance percentage of 79.4% and a mean of 3.97.

These findings suggest that the role of external auditors has a statistically significant effect on improving the quality of tax inspection, contradicting Hypothesis 4.

The researcher also provided some possible ways to mitigate the issue of external auditors' bias towards taxpayers in disputes and legal cases, which can further improve the quality of tax inspection.

It is important to note that the results are based on a specific research sample and may not be generalizable to other populations. Additionally, the research relied on self-reported data, which may be subject to response bias. Therefore, further research is needed to confirm these findings and explore the role of external auditors in improving the quality of tax inspection.

The results presented in Table 8 suggest that the role of external auditors is crucial in improving the quality of tax inspection. The high importance percentages and means for the various phrases related to the role of external auditors indicate that their involvement can help ensure the accuracy and fairness of tax examination processes.

For instance, using financial comparisons between prior and subsequent periods to highlight the true financial position and taxpaying performance of the taxpayer can provide a comprehensive view of the taxpayer's financial status and performance. This can help identify any discrepancies or inconsistencies in the tax return and facilitate the examination process. Similarly, using benchmarking to compare the taxpayer's financial performance with that of similar companies in comparable political, economic, and social conditions can provide valuable insights into the taxpayer's financial position and performance.

The findings also suggest that providing sufficient evidence to support the tax examination process and applying generally accepted accounting principles, standards, and principles to ensure consistency with financial laws and regulations are essential in improving the quality of tax

inspection. These measures can help minimize the risk of errors or omissions in the tax return and ensure compliance with the relevant financial laws and regulations.

In summary, the results suggest that the role of external auditors is vital in improving the quality of tax inspection, and their involvement can help ensure the accuracy and fairness of tax examination processes.

The results of the research indicate that external auditors play a crucial role in ensuring fairness and objectivity in the tax inspection process. They also play a critical role in improving the quality of audit reports submitted to tax authorities. The results showed that external auditors assist in making easy comparisons between financial statements and previous financial data to ensure accuracy. They also help increase reliance on financial data to extract the necessary financial ratios for the tax inspection process and shed light on the main and subsidiary activities of taxpayers in declaring taxes, supported by sufficient evidence.

However, the research's sample evaluation suggests that external auditors may exhibit bias towards taxpayers in legal disputes at the expense of tax authorities. Therefore, this possibility must be considered, and necessary measures must be taken to limit any bias that may affect the fairness and objectivity of the tax inspection process.

Overall, external auditors can be relied upon as trusted partners in ensuring fairness and objectivity in the tax inspection process and improving the quality of audit reports submitted to tax authorities.

The paragraph you mentioned suggests that the research found the possibility of bias by external auditors towards taxpayers in legal disputes at the expense of tax authorities. This means that external auditors may favor taxpayers over tax authorities in legal disputes, which can affect the fairness and objectivity of the tax inspection process.

Therefore, the researcher emphasizes the need to consider this possibility and take necessary measures to limit any bias that may affect the fairness and objectivity of the tax inspection process. These measures may include, for example, developing tools and methodologies to assess the inspection process and ensure there is no bias, as well as establishing clear standards and guidelines for external auditors to avoid any bias in tax audit and inspection processes.

Secondly, hypothesis testing was conducted as follows:

The first Main Hypothesis: There is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving the quality of tax audit in Yemen.

From this hypothesis, the following sub-hypothesis was formulated:

H01: There is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving taxpayers' tax awareness.

To test this sub-hypothesis, the researcher used a One Sample T-Test with a hypothetical mean of 3. The results are presented in Table 9 below:

Table (9): Results of One Sample T-Test for the Direction of Research Sample's Opinions on the Role of External Auditors in Improving Taxpayers' Tax Awareness (at a Mean of 3)

Hypothesis ¹	Mean	S.D.	NU	DF	T	Decision	
						p-v	Sign
There is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving taxpayers' tax awareness.	3.64	0.61	60	59	8.110	0.000	Fun.

The results presented in Table 9 indicate a statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving taxpayers' tax awareness. The calculated T-value was 8.110, which is large and positive, and the difference between the sample mean and hypothetical mean was statistically significant with a p-value of 0.000. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H01) is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis is accepted with a significance level of 0.000.

H02: There is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving the level of trust of the tax authority in the content of the tax report submitted by the taxpayer.

To test this hypothesis, the researcher used a One Sample T-Test with a hypothetical mean of 3. The results are presented in Table 10 below:

Table 10: Results of One Sample T-Test for the Direction of Research Sample’s Opinions on the Lack of Statistical Significance of the Role of External Auditors in Improving the Level of Trust of the Tax Authority in the Content of the Tax Report Submitted by the Taxpayer (at a Mean of 3).

Hypothesis Significance	Mean	S.D.	N	DF	T	Decision	
						p-v sig.	Sign
There is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving the level of trust of the tax authority in the content of the tax report submitted by the taxpayer.	4.12	0.55	60	59	15.895	.0000	sig.

Based on the results, the null hypothesis is rejected at the chosen significance level, indicating that there is a statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in improving the level of trust of the tax authority in the content of the tax report submitted by the taxpayer.

H03: There is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in conferring the qualities of neutrality and credibility in the content of the reports submitted to the tax authority.

To test this hypothesis, the researcher used a One Sample T-Test with a hypothetical mean of 3. The results are presented in Table 11 below:

Table 11: presents the results of a One Sample T-Test for the direction of research sample's opinions on the lack of statistical significance of the role of external auditors in conferring the qualities of neutrality and credibility in the content of the reports submitted to the tax authority.

Hypothesis Significance	Mean	S.D.	N	DF	T	Decision	
						p-v sig.	Sign
There is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in conferring the qualities of neutrality and credibility in the content of the reports submitted to the tax authority	4.00	0.67	60	59	11.615	.0000	sig.

The null hypothesis cannot be rejected at the chosen significance level, indicating no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in conferring these qualities. However, the calculated T-value was 11.615, which is large and positive, and the difference between the sample mean and hypothetical mean was statistically significant with a p-value of 0.000. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis is accepted, suggesting a statistically significant effect of the role of external auditors in conferring the qualities of neutrality and credibility with a significance level of 0.000.

H04: There is no statistically significant effect of the role of external auditing in improving the quality level of the content of the audit report submitted to the tax authority.

To test this hypothesis, the researcher used a One Sample T-Test with a hypothetical mean of 3. The results are presented in Table 12 below:

Table 12: presents the results of a One Sample T-Test for the direction of research sample's opinions on the lack of statistical significance of the role of external auditing in improving the quality level of the content of the audit report submitted to the tax authority.

Hypothesis Significance	Mean	S.D.	N	DF	T	Decision	
						p-v sig.	Sign
The lack of an external review function to enhance the quality level of the audit report content submitted to the tax authority impedes the elevation of quality standards	3.74	0.64	60	59	8.971	0.000	sig.

The calculated T-value was 8.971, which is large and positive, and the difference between the sample mean and hypothetical mean was statistically significant with a p-value of 0.000. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis is accepted, suggesting a statistically significant effect of the role of external auditing in improving the quality level of the content of the audit report submitted to the

tax authority with a significance level of 0.000. The null hypothesis cannot be accepted at the chosen significance level.

In summary, the results suggest that external auditors play an important role in improving various aspects of the tax reporting and auditing process, including taxpayers' tax awareness, the level of trust of the tax authority, and the quality of the audit report. These findings have important implications for policymakers and tax authorities in their efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the tax system.

The Second Main Hypothesis of the research states that there are statistically significant differences at a significance level of 0.05 in the opinions of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination in Yemen, attributed to demographic variables such as region, qualification, job title, experience, and number of courses.

Table 13: displays the results of a t-test conducted to examine the differences in the mean responses of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination, attributed to the organization variable (Tax Authority, Yemeni Legal Accountants Association).

	Organization	Number	Mean	Sig. value	(t) valu	Sig.
The role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination.	TA	33	3.79	0.45	3.79	
	YLAA	27	3.99	0.52		

The results indicate that there are no statistically significant differences in the mean responses of the research sample based on the organization variable. Specifically, the calculated (t) value was -1.571, and the corresponding p-value was 0.122, which is greater than the chosen significance level of 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted, suggesting that the opinions of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination do not differ based on the organization variable.

In conclusion, the findings suggest that the responses of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination are not influenced by the organization variable, and there are no statistically significant differences in the opinions of the research sample based on the organization to which they belong.

Differences in Terms of the Variable "Job Title" (General Manager, Accounts Manager, External Auditor, Tax Examiner).

Table 14: presents the results of a one-way ANOVA test, which aimed to examine the differences in the mean responses of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination attributed to the job title variable.

	Variance source	Total sum of squares	Total degrees of freedom	Mean square	F-value	(p-value)	S. sign
The role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination	Between groups	1.203	3	.401	1.744	.169	
	: Within groups	12.879	56	.230			
	Total	14.082	59				

The results indicate that there are no statistically significant differences in the mean responses of the research sample based on the job title variable. The calculated F-value was 1.744, and the corresponding p-value was 0.169, which is greater than the chosen significance level of 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted, suggesting that the opinions of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination do not differ based on the job title variable.

In conclusion, the findings suggest that the responses of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination are not influenced by the job title

variable, and there are no statistically significant differences in the opinions of the research sample based on the job titles they hold.

Differences in Terms of the Variable "Educational Qualification" (PhD, Master's, Bachelor's, Diploma)

Table 15 displays the results of a one-way ANOVA test conducted to examine the differences in the mean responses of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination attributed to the educational qualification variable (PhD, Master's, Bachelor's, Diploma).

Table 15: displays the results of a one-way ANOVA

		Variance source	Total sum of squares	Total degrees of freedom	Mean square	F-value	(p-value)	S. sign
	The role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination	Between groups	.108	3	.401	1.744	.169	
		Within groups	13.974	56	.230			
		Total	14.082	59				

The research aimed to investigate whether there are any significant differences between the perception of individuals regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination, based on their educational qualification.

The results of the ANOVA test presented in Table 15 showed that there were no statistically significant differences between the mean responses of the research sample attributed to the demographic variable of educational qualification. The F-value was 0.144 with a p-value of 0.933, indicating that educational qualification does not affect the perception of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination. Therefore, it can be concluded that educational qualification is not a significant factor in determining the perception of individuals regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination.

The Differences for the Variable of Years of Experience (1-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years, more than 15 years) were investigated.

Table 16: presents the results of the one-way ANOVA test conducted to examine the differences between the mean responses of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination attributed to the demographic variable of years of experience.

	Variance source	Total sum of squares	Total degrees of freedom	Mean square	F-value	(p-value)	S. sign
The role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination	Between groups	.229	3	.076	.309	.819	
	Within groups	13.853	56	.247			
	Total	14.082	59				

The results of Table 16 indicate that there were no statistically significant differences between the mean responses of the research sample regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination attributed to years of experience. The F-value was 0.309 with a p-value of 0.819, which is greater than the significance level of 0.05, indicating that the results are not statistically significant.

The research found that there were no significant differences in the perception of individuals regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination based on their years of experience. Therefore, the researcher concluded that the perception of individuals

regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination remains the same, regardless of their years of experience.

The differences for the variable of training courses attended (1-3 courses, 4-7 courses, 8-11 courses, more than 11 courses) were investigated.

Table 17: shows that there were no statistically significant differences in the perception of individuals regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination based on their training courses attended.

	Variance source	Total sum of squares	Total degrees of freedom	Mean square	F-value	(p-value)	S. sign
The role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination	Between groups	.114	3	.076	.152	.928	
	Within groups	13.968	56	.247			
	Total	14.082	59				

The F-value was 0.152 with a p-value of 0.928, which is greater than the significance level of 0.05, indicating that the results are not statistically significant.

Therefore, the researcher concluded that the demographic variables (organization, qualification, job title, experience, and number of training courses attended) did not have a significant effect on the perception of individuals regarding the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination. The null hypothesis, which stated that there were no significant differences in the mean responses of the research sample, was accepted.

Based on the results presented in Tables 9, 10, 11, and 12, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The role of external auditors has a statistically significant effect on improving taxpayers' tax awareness (H01 is rejected).
2. The role of external auditors has a statistically significant effect on improving the level of trust of the tax authority in the content of the tax report submitted by the taxpayer (H03 is rejected).
3. The role of external auditors has a statistically significant effect on conferring the qualities of neutrality and credibility in the content of the reports submitted to the tax authority (H05 is accepted).
4. The role of external auditing has a statistically significant effect on improving the quality level of the content of the audit report submitted to the tax authority (H04 is rejected).

This research aimed to investigate the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination in Yemen and to examine the potential impact of demographic variables on individuals' perception of this role.

The results suggest that the role of external auditors has a statistically significant effect on improving the tax authority's confidence level in the content of their reports, particularly in terms of independence, adherence to audit quality standards, and professional reputation. However, their role in improving taxpayers' tax awareness was not found to be statistically significant.

The research also found that demographic variables such as organization, job title, educational qualification, years of experience, and number of training courses attended did not have a significant effect on individuals' perception of the role of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination.

Based on these findings, the following recommendations can be made:

1. External auditors should prioritize their independence, compliance with relevant standards, and professional reputation to enhance the tax authority's confidence level in the content of their reports.
2. Tax authorities should implement measures to ensure that external auditors comply with audit quality standards and maintain their professional reputation.
3. Taxpayers' tax awareness should be improved through education and training programs.
4. Further research is needed to explore the factors that affect the tax authority's confidence level in the content of reports presented by taxpayers and the role of internal auditors.

Overall, the research highlights the importance of external auditors in improving the quality level of tax examination in Yemen and emphasizes the need for continued efforts to enhance their role and ensure compliance with relevant standards.

Recommendations for the Yemeni Tax Authority:

1. Enhance cooperation between external auditors and the tax authority in Yemen to improve the quality of auditing and ensure compliance with established professional standards.
2. Provide training programs for external auditors and tax authority staff on established professional standards and recent legal and tax changes.
3. Develop the tax audit system and provide appropriate equipment and tools for external auditors to facilitate their work and improve the quality of auditing.
4. Improve taxpayer awareness of the importance of tax compliance and proper income and expense reporting through awareness campaigns and educational programs.
5. Provide appropriate facilities and benefits for taxpayers who comply with tax laws and report their income and expenses accurately.
6. Expand the tax authority's scope and increase the number of qualified staff to ensure improved service quality and increased efficiency.
7. Develop a monitoring and follow-up system for tax authority operations and improve the reporting and handling system for complaints and observations.
8. Improve the organizational climate and administrative processes in the tax authority to improve efficiency and quality of work.

These recommendations can help improve the quality of tax auditing and increase taxpayer compliance with tax laws in Yemen.

Recommendations for the Yemeni Association of Accountants:

1. Develop and implement professional development programs for accountants, including continuing education and training on new accounting standards, regulations, and laws.
2. Promote the adoption of international accounting standards among Yemeni businesses and provide guidance to accountants on their implementation.
3. Encourage the development and adoption of ethical codes and professional standards for accountants in Yemen.
4. Foster collaboration and information sharing among accountants in Yemen through networking events, conferences, and other professional development opportunities.
5. Advocate for the recognition and protection of the accounting profession in Yemen, including promoting the role of accountants in corporate governance and decision-making.
6. Develop and implement initiatives to increase the representation of women and underrepresented groups in the accounting profession in Yemen.
7. Strengthen the governance and leadership of the Yemeni Association of Accountants to ensure effective representation and advocacy for its members.

These recommendations can help strengthen the accounting profession in Yemen, improve the quality of accounting services, and promote the adoption of international accounting standards and ethical practices.

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