Names of the Authors:

Submission Checklist

Please ensure adherence to the requirements listed below when submitting your manuscript to JCPAD. Place a cross (✗) in the appropriate box, convert this form to a PDF, and include it with your submission.

Requirement	Compliance
1. GENERAL	
1.1.Font Type: Times New Roman	Yes ☐ No ☐
1.2. Font Size: 12 (for text, except headings)	Yes ☐ No ☐
1.3. Font Color: Black	Yes ☐ No ☐
1.4. Line Spacing: Single (1.0)	Yes ☐ No ☐
1.5. Page Size: A4	Yes ☐ No ☐
1.6. Page Margins: Top, Bottom, right – 1 inch (2.54 cm), Left – 1.25 inches (3.18 cm)	Yes ☐ No ☐
1.7. Subtopics should be formatted as follows: Level 1 – Each First Letter of the Words Should Be Capitalized. Level 2 – Only the First Letter of the First Word Should Be Capitalized.	Yes ☐ No ☐
1.8. Use British English throughout the text.	Yes ☐ No ☐
1.9. All the topics, subtopics need to be left-aligned.	Yes ☐ No ☐
1.10. Present only the relevant tables and figures based on the prescribed formats of JCPAD. See points 11 & 12 below.	Yes ☐ No ☐
2. **TITLE**	
2.1. The title should be concise, not exceeding 20 words.	Yes ☐ No ☐
2.2. The title must be written in all capital letters.	Yes ☐ No ☐

2.3. Title needs to be centered.	Yes ☐ No ☐
2.4. Font size – 12	Yes ☐ No ☐
3. AUTHOR NAMES	
3.1. The names of authors should be written in the following format with single spacing: the student's name first, followed by the supervisor's name, separated by a comma. The names must be in **bold**, **centered,** and the **affiliations must be in italics**. **Perera LC, Karunarathna S** *Department of Accounting, University of Sri Jayewardenepura*	Yes ☐ No ☐
3.2. The names do not include any titles such as Mr., Ms., Dr., Prof., Snr. Prof. or other designations.	Yes ☐ No ☐
3.3. Font size - 12	Yes ☐ No ☐
4. ABSTRACT	
4.1. After the title and authors' names, leave one line space, and write the term "ABSTRACT" in bold, all capital letters, with the same font size.	Yes ☐ No ☐
4.2. The abstract should be a maximum of **250 words** in **one** paragraph.	Yes ☐ No ☐
4.3. It should briefly summarise the **objective/s**, **methods**, **key findings**, and **implications** of the paper.	Yes ☐ No ☐
4.4. Provide **3-5 keywords** that capture the main themes of the paper, listed in **alphabetical order**.	Yes ☐ No ☐
5. INTRODUCTION	
5.1. Write the introduction with **a minimum length of 1 page and a maximum of 1.5 pages.**	Yes ☐ No ☐
5.2. The introduction should clearly outline the **context**, **purpose**, and **scope** of the study.	Yes ☐ No ☐
5.3. Explain the research problem and identify a research gap/s.	Yes ☐ No ☐
5.4.The last paragraph of this section should clearly outline the structure of the remaining sections of the paper.	Yes ☐ No ☐

5.5. Ensure the introduction does not include sub-topics and bullet points/numbered lists for objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐
5.6. Include only the research objectives without the corresponding research questions.	Yes ☐ No ☐
6. LITERATURE REVIEW	
6.1. Write the literature review with **a minimum length of 3 pages and a maximum of 3.5 pages.**	Yes ☐ No ☐
6.2. Provide appropriate subtopics for the **main sub-sections**.	Yes ☐ No ☐
6.3.Summarise key theories, concepts, and research findings relevant to the topic.	Yes ☐ No ☐
6.4. Where applicable, there should be a theory/ model included in the literature review.	Yes ☐ No ☐
6.5. Where applicable, hypotheses/propositions should be indicated which are developed based on existing studies.	Yes ☐ No ☐
6.6. **Integrate recent literature** as much as possible, emphasising studies published within the last 5-10 years, except for seminal studies.	Yes ☐ No ☐
7. METHODOLOGY	
7.1. Write the methodology section with a **minimum length of 2.5 pages and a maximum of 3 pages.**	Yes ☐ No ☐
7.2. Provide appropriate subtopics for the **main sub-sections**.	Yes ☐ No ☐
7.3. Clearly describe the **research approach, design**, population and sample (if applicable), and **data collection methods**.	Yes ☐ No☐ N/A☐
7.4. If applicable, the conceptual diagram and operationalisation of the variables need to be included.	Yes ☐ No☐ N/A☐
7.5. **Include the analytical techniques.**	Yes ☐ No ☐
8. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION	
8.1. Write the analysis and discussion section with a **minimum length of 5 pages and a maximum of 6 pages.**	Yes ☐ No ☐
8.2. Provide appropriate subtopics for the **main sub-sections**.	Yes ☐ No ☐
8.3. If applicable, present the descriptive statistics of the sample.	Yes ☐ No☐ N/A☐

8.4. Present and interpret the **main results based on the main objective/s of the study**, discussing their implications and relevance to the field.	Yes ☐ No ☐
8.5.	Yes ☐ No ☐
8.6. **Integrate literature into the discussion** by analysing and synthesising past studies rather than just summarising them.	Yes ☐ No ☐
9. CONCLUSION	
9.1. Limit the conclusion to **a maximum of 1 page**.	Yes ☐ No ☐
9.2. Summarise the main findings, their implications, limitations and suggest areas for future research.	Yes ☐ No ☐
9.3. Do not include any subtopics and use separate paragraphs for the above sections in 9.2.	Yes ☐ No ☐
10. REFERENCES	
10.1. Follow the **Harvard referencing style** suggested by the JCPAD (see Appendix 1).	Yes ☐ No ☐
10.2. For specific quotations, such as direct quotations, the page number should be included (see Appendix 1).	Yes ☐ No ☐
10.3. The reference list should be of a reasonable length.	Yes ☐ No ☐
10.4. Ensure all in-text citations are included in the reference list, and vice versa.	Yes ☐ No ☐
10.5. Only include references that are cited within the manuscript.	Yes ☐ No ☐
10.6. Each reference entry must contain all required elements, including authors' names, topic, journal name, volume number, issue number, and page range.	Yes ☐ No ☐
11. TABLES	
11.1. Follow the prescribed format (see Appendix 2). Ensure that **only the main gridlines** are made visible and extra spaces are not available, as depicted in Appendix 2.	Yes ☐ No ☐
11.2. Tables must be **numbered, titled and left-aligned** above the table. The first letter of each word in the table name should be capitalized. Example: **Table 1: Sample Selection**	Yes ☐ No ☐

11.3. Provide the source of the table just after the table as a table footnote.	Yes ☐ No ☐
11.4. Ensure that all tables are referenced in the text.	Yes ☐ No ☐
12. FIGURES	
12.1. Follow the prescribed format (see Appendix 3). If applicable, any arrows should be included as a single thin line as depicted in Appendix 3.	Yes ☐ No ☐
12.2. Figures must be **numbered, titled and left-aligned below** the figure. The first letter of each word in the figure name should be capitalized. Example: Figure 1: Conceptual Framework	Yes ☐ No ☐
12.3. Provide the source of the figure below just after the figure as a figure footnote	Yes ☐ No ☐
12.4. Ensure that all figures are referenced in the text.	Yes ☐ No ☐
12.5. Figures and any charts should be in black and white without any other colours. You could use a gradient scale (black and white) if necessary.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Appendix 1

References and Reference List

Specific examples

For a journal article

Vafeas, N 2005, 'Audit Committees, boards, and the quality of reported earnings', *Contemporary Accounting Research*, vol. 22, no. 4, pp. 1093-1122.

Burnett, RD & Hansen, DR 2008, 'Eco-efficiency: defining a role for environmental cost management', *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, vol. 33, no. 6, pp. 551-581.

Dissanayake, D, Tilt, C & Quian, W 2021, **'**How do public companies respond to national challenges through sustainability reporting?**'**, *Qualitative Research in Accounting and Management*, vol. 18, no. 4/5, pp. 455-483.

For a book

Wanger, J 2011, *Pulmonary Function Testing: A Practical Approach: A Practical Approach*. Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

Web entry

KPMG 2022, *Bringing clarity to the audit with AI (Artificial Intelligence)*, viewed 20 September 2022, https://audit.kpmg.us/k:pmg-clara.html

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Alves, S 2013, 'The impact of audit committee existence and external audit on earnings management', *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 143-165.

Antle, R, Gordon, E, Narayanamoorthy, G & Zhou, L 2006, 'The joint determination of audit fees, non-audit fees, and abnormal accruals', *Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting*, vol. 27, no. 3, pp. 235–266.

Asghar, A, Sajjad, S, Shahzad, A & Matemilola, B 2020, 'Role of discretionary earning management in corporate governance-value and corporate governance-risk relationships' corporate governance', *The International Journal of Business in Society*, vol. 20, no. 4, pp. 561-581.

Bauwhede, HV, Willekens, M & Gaeremynck, A 2003, 'Audit firm size, public ownership, and firm's discretionary accruals management', *The International Journal of Accounting*, vol. 38, no. 1, pp. 1-22.

Becker, CL, DeFond, ML, Jiambalso, J & Subramanyam, KR 1998, 'The effect of audit quality on earnings management', *Contemporary Accounting Research*, vol. 15, no. 1, pp. 1-24.

Bekiris, F & Doukakis, L 2011, 'Corporate governance and accruals earnings management', *Managerial and Decision Economics*, vol. 32, no. 7, pp. 439-456.

Campa, D 2013, 'Big 4 fee premium and audit quality: latest evidence from the UK listed companies', *Managerial Auditing Journal*, vol. 28, no.8, pp. 680-707.

Chan, P, Ezzamel, M & Gwilliam, D 1993, 'Determinants of audit fees for quoted UK companies', *Journal of Business Finance & Accounting*, vol. 20, no. 6, pp. 765-786.

Chen, JJ & Zhang, H 2012, 'The impact of the corporate governance code on earnings management - evidence from Chinese listed companies', *European Financial Management*, vol. 20, no. 3, pp. 596-632.

Chen, K, Elder, R & Hsieh, Y 2007, 'Corporate governance and earning management: the implications of corporate governance best practice principles for Taiwanese listed companies', *Journal of Contemporary Accounting & Economics*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 73-105.

Chen, KY, Lin, KL & Zhou, J 2005, 'Audit quality and earnings management for Taiwan IPO firms', *Managerial Auditing Journal*, vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 86-104.

Cornett, M, McNutt, J & Tehranian, H 2009. 'Corporate governance and earnings management at large U.S. bank holding companies', *Journal of Corporate Finance*, vol. 15, no. 4, pp. 412-430.

In-text citations

2.1 Sustainable Development

According to Çalıskan (2013), industrialisation and the growth of large-scale businesses, driven by the need to meet human demands, have resulted in excessive consumption and a range of negative consequences, including global warming, air and water pollution, depletion of natural resources, and adverse impacts on human health and quality of life. To mitigate the harmful outcomes of these actions, the concept of sustainable development has been introduced. Sustainable development was described in the Brundtland Report as "the potential to meet the requirements of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland 1987, p.16). To address this crucial concept of sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has issued 17 SDGs which are globally accepted. These SDGs offer global direction for addressing the issues the international community is now experiencing (Stefanescu 2021). Sustainability has three main branches: economic viability, social responsibility, and environmental responsibility (Ozili 2022). The three dimensions are presented with opportunity costs and trade-offs between each dimension. Social and environmental reasonability cannot stand in isolation from economic viability. Therefore, accountants and managers must consider the sustainable development of organisations as an integral part of their decision-making.

The dominant theory that will outline this research study is the legitimacy theory. Legitimacy theory states that organisations continuously try to ensure that they carry out activities under societal boundaries and norms (Deegan et al. 2002). According to legitimacy theory, an unbreakable virtual social contract exists between an organisation and the social system in which it functions (Aversano et al. 2022). The notion that a business and the society in which it works have a "social contract" is the foundation of legitimacy theory (Deegan et al. 2002). The social contract represents every expectation that society has for how an organisation must operate (Deegan et al. 2002). The existence of an organisation is specifically deemed to be a hazard if society believes it has violated the social contract (Deegan et al. 2002). Society has the right to terminate an organisation's "contract" to continue operations if it is not satisfied that it is conducting its business legitimately (Deegan & Rankin 1997). According to Deegan (2002), there are a few ways this can be accomplished: customers can decrease the demand for the company's goods; factory suppliers can stop providing labour and financial support to the company, or citizens can lobby the government to impose higher taxes, fines, or laws that forbid behaviour that is out of line with community standards. Additionally, the conditions under which social acceptance is granted under the terms of the social contract also vary because society's expectations are dynamic. Due to this fact, businesses must adapt to the environment in which they function (Deegan et al. 2000).

Appendix 2 - Tables

Table 1: Sample Selection

Industry	No. of Companies	No. of Companies Selected
Material	20	6
Energy	2	0
Capital goods	29	7
Commercial and professional services	5	1
Transportation	2	0
Automobile and components	1	0
Consumer durables and apparel	12	3
Consumer services	36	9
Retailing	13	3
Food and staples retailing	4	1
Food beverage and tobacco	47	11
Household and personal products	2	0
Healthcare equipment and services	8	2
Telecommunication services	2	0
Utilities	8	2
Real state	19	5
Total	**210**	**50**

Source: Author Constructed

Appendix 3 - Figures

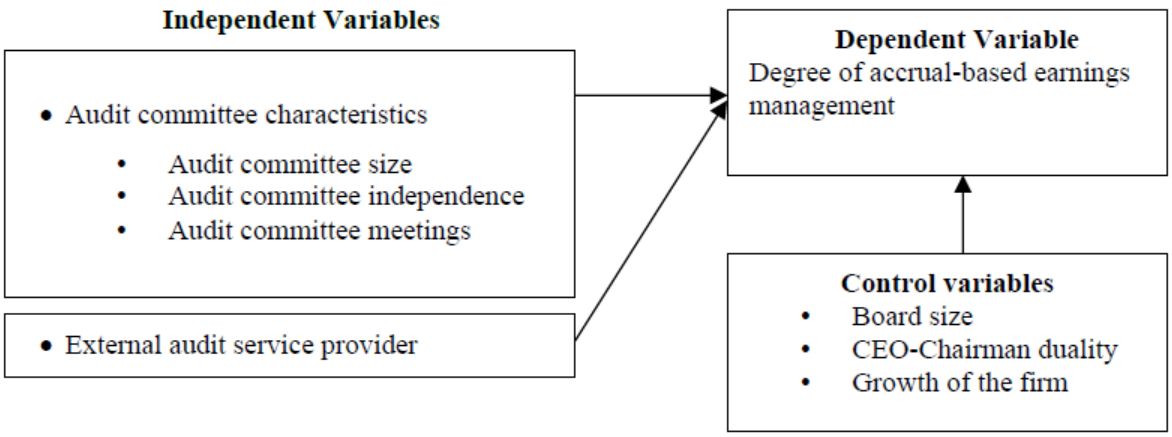

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework
Source: Author Constructed