INTRODUCTION

The scene: A first year classroom of a secondary school – the Dutch educational system after the common primary stage, age 6–12, branches into various types of secondary schools according to ability levels. This is a ‘leao’ class with 25 pupils – a rather low ability group.

The time: September 1976, that is, at the beginning of the school year.

The teaching method: Mainly group work, with work sheets for groups of four.

The theme: ‘Know your class’. It deals with working with punched cards.

Background: In a previous discussion the pupils have agreed on a questionnaire, which will be processed statistically by using punched cards.

The ten questions they agreed upon, were:

1. Do you have a phone at home?
2. Do you live in Utrecht?
3. Do you like pop or soul music?
4. Do you like carnival music?
5. Do you like dancing?
6. Do you like night-time parties?
7. Do you like sports?
8. Do you like ball games?
9. Do you like water sports?
10. Do you like athletics?

Each pupil has stuck his passport photo on his punched card (Figure 1), and punched the card according to his answers to the questions 1–10.

Fig. 1.
Then he made several copies of the card (without pictures). Every working group has a complete set of cards.

THE WORK SHEET

After each question a different pupil of the group handles the deck of cards.

Query 1. With the help of the punched cards find out which pupils are doing water sports.

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Explain briefly how you found it.

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Query 2. Find out which pupils have a phone at home.

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Explain briefly how you found it.

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Query 3. Find out which pupils like neither pop or soul music nor carnival music.

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Explain briefly how you found it.

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Query 4. Find out which pupils take part in precisely one of the three kinds of sport.

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Explain briefly how you found it.

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